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Dozens killed overnight in NYC, NJ during historic flooding

LIFE THROWN OUT OF GEAR IN THE REGION

NO RUSH FOR US TO RECOGNIZE TALIBAN: WHITE HOUSE



Photo for representation purposes only

WASHINGTON (TIP) There is no rush to recognize the Taliban either by the United States or many of the countries that it has spoken to, the White House said, asserting that such a move would be dependent on what they deliver on the expectations of the global community. **CONTD ON PAGE 38**



Cars stuck on a street flooded by heavy rain in Queens as the tail-end of Hurricane Ida ravaged the region

NEW YORK (TIP): Dozens of people were killed across New York and New Jersey - including a 2-year-old boy and his parents who drowned in a basement apartment in Queens - as the tail-end of Hurricane Ida ravaged the northeast, says a New York Post report.

The storm knocked out power and flooded streets, homes and subways - prompting the first-ever flash flood emergency for the Big Apple and leaving a trail of devastation from Maryland to New York.

Thirteen people in the five boroughs were reported killed by late Thursday evening, according to NYPD Chief of Department Rodney Harrison. Many of the victims became trapped in flooded basement apartments and one person

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India's External Affairs minister Jaishankar, Slovenian President discuss Indo-Pacific, Afghanistan crisis



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with President of Slovenia Borut Pahor in Ljubljana on Thursday, September 2, 2021

Photo / PTI

LJUBLJANA (TIP): External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Thursday met Slovenian President Borut Pahor and discussed key challenges facing India and the European Union (EU).

Slovenia holds the presidency of the Council of the European Union.

Jaishankar is in the central European nation as part of his four-day visit to Slovenia, Croatia and Denmark to boost bilateral ties and strengthen India's

cooperation with the EU.

Jaishankar in a tweet thanked President Pahor for his gracious welcome.

"Deeply appreciate his long standing support for our relationship. Discussed key challenges facing India and EU," he added, sharing a photograph of the meeting. Jaishankar also met with Slovenian counterpart Anze Logar

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Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla visits Washington for talks with U.S. officials

Visit precedes a possible trip by Prime Minister Narendra Modi

WASHINGTON (TIP): Following his visit to New York where he chaired a meeting of the Security Council, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla arrived in Washington for meetings with officials including one with his counterpart Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman. The Foreign Secretary's visit to the city precedes a possible month-end visit by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Mr. Shringla and Ms Sherman held "substantive discussions on advancing the India-US Strategic Partnership across sectors including healthcare, defense & security, trade & investment, S&T [science and technology], climate change, clean energy and people to people ties," Ministry of External

CONTD ON PAGE 38



Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla with Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman in Washington D.C. on September 2, 2021 - Photo: Twitter/@MEAIndia

SECTION OF MEDIA GIVES COMMUNAL COLOR TO NEWS BRINGING BAD NAME TO NATION, SAYS SUPREME COURT



Expresses serious concern over fake news on social media, including web portals and YouTube

NEW DELHI (TIP): Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana on Thursday, September 2, said certain sections of the media communalized everything and this would ultimately result in giving the country a bad name. The remark from the CJI came while hearing petitions highlighting how some media outlets

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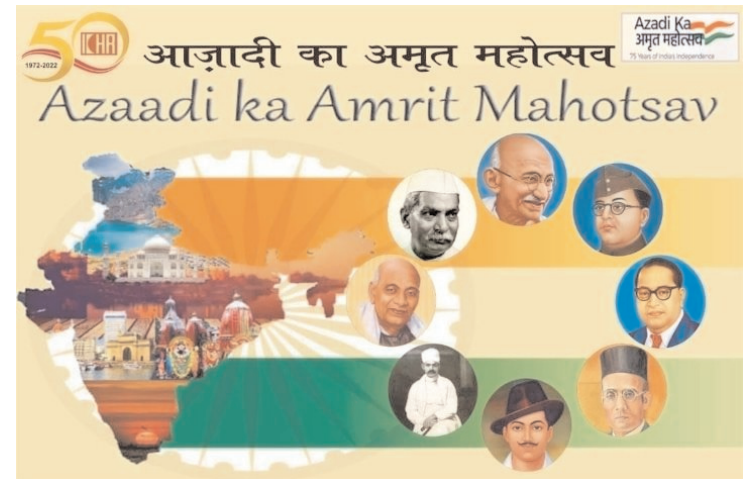
-: GUEST COMMENT :-

ERASING NEHRU

POSTER ON 75 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE REEKS OF PETTINESS

Indian history has always been a battleground of identity politics and a contested territory of colonial, anti-colonial and post-modern historiographies. While the neo-colonial historians and intellectuals keep trying to belittle the national movement and to pit Gandhi against Ambedkar, creating a false binary to paint the former as some sort of a feudal casteist, the Hindutvavadi historians have been attempting to whitewash their icons and erase their ideological rivals. It is a miracle that the Mahatma has so far survived the Hindutva censorship scissors, for Gandhi and Nehru had all along been blamed for all that had gone wrong with the nation. The 'what if' history-writers have wanted Subhas Chandra Bose as India's first Prime Minister and they finally seem to have succeeded in at least releasing a poster as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations with the first President, Rajendra Prasad, to Gandhi's left and Bose to his right, with Nehru completely absent.

The erasure of Nehru and the inclusion of VD Savarkar ought to lead any history enthusiast to a 'what if' question: what if the Nehru government had vigorously prosecuted the Gandhi murder case and refused to accept the acquittal of Savarkar by the trial court? All those who celebrate Savarkar in the Indian Council for Historical Research poster should thank Nehru for not appealing against the trial court order. They ought to be grateful to Indira Gandhi too for legitimizing Savarkar's memory by issuing a postage stamp just a year after the JL Kapur Commission probing the Gandhi assassination found that 'all these facts taken together were destructive of any theory other than the conspiracy to murder by Savarkar



When the government hails Savarkar and Ambedkar, who opposed the Quit India struggle, as heroes, it could be accused of political pettiness if it removes Nehru from the publicity material for the celebrations of 75 years of Independence. - File photo

and his group'.

Nehru is not just the nation's first and the longest serving Prime Minister, but a brilliant leader of the vanguard of India's freedom struggle who spent about nine years in British prisons. He made mistakes, no doubt, but who hasn't? When the government hails Savarkar and Ambedkar, who opposed the Quit India struggle, as heroes, it could be accused of political pettiness if it removes Nehru from the publicity material for the celebrations of 75 years of Independence. (Tribune, India)

Noble intentions: On the U.N. and the Taliban

THE U.N. MUST ENSURE THAT THE TALIBAN UPHOLD HUMAN RIGHTS AND GIVE UP TERROR TACTICS

As India ended its month-long presidency of the U.N. Security Council this week, the government claimed a victory of sorts for chairing a session that resulted in the adoption of UNSC Resolution 2593, condemning terrorism and urging the Taliban to ensure human rights in Afghanistan. The government has said that the resolution - sponsored by the U.S., the U.K. and France - addressed key Indian concerns, calling for the Taliban to ensure safe evacuations of Afghans wishing to leave and not allowing Afghan soil to be used for terrorist activity. The passage of the resolution was timely, practically coinciding with the exit of the last U.S. troops from Kabul, and the Taliban's declaration of complete victory. It also followed on three discussions held under India's chairmanship that have set out the expectations from the new regime in Afghanistan: the importance of upholding rights; to push for an

inclusive, negotiated political settlement for government, and condemning all acts of terror, including the recent attack on Kabul airport; preventing any future attacks, and combating of the presence of UN-designated entities. However, the resolution did not contain any consequential language that would give the UNSC's stated intentions any real teeth, and appears to accept the Taliban regime as the default force in Afghanistan.

While it is very early to consider more punitive action against the Taliban for violating their commitments by using the U.N. Charter's "Chapter 7" mandate, that empowers the UNSC to maintain peace, it is disappointing that the India-chaired resolution does not contain language that would hold the new regime more accountable. The watered-down language was probably on account of severe opposition from Russia and China, who later decided to abstain. This divide in the P-5 nations will only prove

to be counterproductive if the UNSC wants to remain "seized" of the situation, as the resolution affirms. It is hoped that the U.N. system acknowledges the powerful leverage it has in Afghanistan's future and actualizes all mechanisms in its mandate to monitor the progress of government formation. A major tool is the India-chaired 1988 (Taliban) Sanctions Committee, due to meet soon, which needs to ensure that no designated leader of the Taliban and their associates are given recourse to funds, arms or travel permission unless they show a commitment to international principles. The renewal, on September 17, of the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan's mandate is another lever. As a concerned neighbor of Afghanistan, one that could be drastically affected by an uptick in terrorism there, and a believer in the UN-led multilateral order, India still has a role in Afghan's future. While it has decided to embark on talks with the Taliban in Doha, it must continue to play that role on the world stage.

(The Hindu)

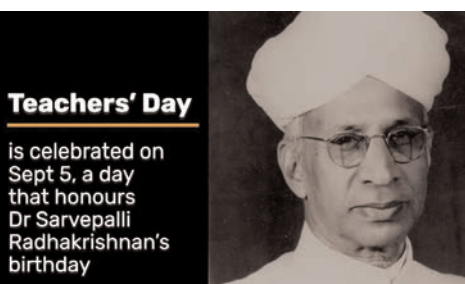
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Celebrating Teacher Extraordinaire Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan

DR. SARVEPALLI RADHAKRISHNAN'S BIRTHDAY ON SEPTEMBER 5 IS CELEBRATED IN INDIA AS TEACHER'S DAY



BY. DR. V K RAJU



Margaret Mead, a great American anthropologist, when she was a little girl, asked her father, who was a professor, "Father, who is a professor? He replied, "Professor is one who keeps learning, and teaches what he learned". What an extraordinary and unusual reply!

Dr. Radhakrishnan was a teacher, scholar, philosopher and humanitarian par excellence. His birthday, September 5th, is celebrated in India as Teacher's Day. I will essay to summarize Dr. Radhakrishnan's life as a teacher.

Plato's concept of philosophy king and the Indian idea of Rajarishi have striking similarities. The idea was realized in Marcus Aurelius, Janaka, Emperor Ashoka and Akbar. In modern times Dr.

Radhakrishnan exemplifies this concept. In 1964, the Pope conferred on Dr. Radhakrishnan, in a declaration, as one of the Chiefs of Golden Army of Angels.

Early life

Radhakrishnan was born on Sept 5th, 1888, in Thiruttani, a small town near Andhra Pradesh-Tamil Nadu border in a Telugu speaking family. Dr. Radhakrishnan's family background coupled with his early demonstrated aptitude for learning took him in gradual stages to school and college. During his college days at Christian College, Madras, one of his senior cousins made him a gift of his old books-Stout's psychology, Welton's Logic, and Mackenzie's Ethics. He chose

philosophy as the main subject of his studies. He later reflects "the subject of philosophy I happened to take up by sheer accident. But when I look at the series of accidents that have shaped my life, I am persuaded that there is more in this life than meets the eye. Life is not a mere chain of physical causes and effects. Chance seems to form at the surface, but deep-down other forces are at work. If the universe is a living one, if it is spiritually alive nothing in it is merely accidental. The moving finger writes and having writ moves on."

The Christian atmosphere in Madras Christian College had both a positive and negative experiences on the mind of the young Radhakrishnan. He acquainted himself with the teaching of the New Testament.



Teacher at Madras & Rajahmundry

Government Arts College Rajahmundry now known as Government College (Autonomous) is on the banks of River Godavari in Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh. It was established as a Zilla Parishad high school in 1853 and upgraded as a Provincial school of Madras Presidency in 1868. It became a college in 1885. It was affiliated to University of Madras in 1891 and

reaffiliated to Andhra University in 1926. Dr. S. Radhakrishnan served as a professor here from 1916 to 1918.

In the memory of the great teacher, the Goutami Eye Institute, Rajahmundry, AP and the Eye Foundation of America are sponsoring free eye examination to 100 teachers in the region on September 5, 2021.

It has been said he used to give brilliant lectures, unsurpassed in brevity and clarity. According to a veracious source, Radhakrishnan in his twenties was a "bohemian and temperamental, not very disciplined and prone to occasional outbursts of anger," but in later life he became free from all these tendencies and attained serenity and equipoise. In 1912 his lectures at Presidency were published as essentials of psychology - Oxford University press.



Rashtrapati Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan at the Republic Day of India Parade with guests

of his book "The Philosophy of Rabindranath Tagore" which was published in 1918. Describing Tagore's philosophy, he says "Tagore's supreme spirit is not an abstract entity residing at a safe distance from the world, but is the concrete, dynamic life at the center of things, giving rise to the roar of the wind and the surf of the sea...Rabindranath is a wholeness of vision which cannot tolerate any absolute divisions."

From Mysore to Calcutta

Radhakrishnan was appointed as professor of Indian Philosophy at Mysore University in 1916. It was during his Mysore days that he published a series of articles in Mind in which he often examined Bergson's philosophy, attempted to prove that he was an Absolutist and wrote his second book, 'The Reign of Religion in Contemporary Philosophy' which was

published in 1920. Examining the philosophies of thinkers like William James, Rudolf Eucken, James Ward, Leibnitz, and others. RK condemned such dominance of religion in philosophy and pleaded for the development of a philosophy in which religion is neither the basis, nor the motivating force.

At University of Calcutta, he became successor to Brajendra Nath Seal (doyen of Indian Philosophy) perplexing many. In 1923, Radhakrishnan's monumental work, Indian Philosophy Vol 1 was published. The impact of this book was tremendous. It resulted in the vivification of philosophical thought in Indian universities.

He was a Professor in a small town, big cities, Vice chancellor of Andhra University, Banares Hindu University, Spalding Professor at Oxford, Ambassador to Moscow, Vice President and President of India. One can go on and on about Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan as a great teacher and an extraordinary Philosopher and Humanitarian. It may be said of a philosopher or a scientist that "the essential in the being" of such a man lies "in what and how he thinks, not in what he does or suffers". This is what Einstein said about himself. Radhakrishnan, for inscrutable reasons, said very little about himself (Acharya Devo Bhava).

(VK Raju MD, FRCS, FACS is a US based Ophthalmologist, Regional Eye Associates; President and Founder, Eye Foundation of America; President and Founder, Goutami Eye Institute; Clinical Professor, West Virginia University; Director, International Ocular Surface Society; Adjunct Professor, GSL Medical School, Adjunct Professor, Johns Hopkins University. He can be reached at vkraju@comcast.net. He can also be reached at Mobile / 1+ 304 2882080)

He was such a prolific writer, that before he turned 27, he had already contributed a number of essays. His diversity of interest on such wide-ranging themes as 'Karma and Free Will', 'Nature and Convention in Greek', 'Ethics of Bhagavad-Gita and Kant', 'Bergson's Idea of God', 'Morality and Religion in Education', 'A View from India on the War I'. These appeared in journals of international repute, such as, The Monist, The Quest, Mind, Journal of Philosophy and The International Journal of Ethics. His Second essay on 'A view from India on the War I' was not allowed to be published by the censors. In 1916, Radhakrishnan was promoted as a Professor and placed in the Provincial Grade and was posted at the Government Arts College, Rajahmundry (AP). He soon became an inspiring and beloved teacher. He stayed in Rajahmundry till 1918. He later said these were the happiest and most fulfilling years of his life.

It was during this period, he worked on the manuscript

INDIAN-ORIGIN YOUTH VISHAL JOOD PLEADS GUILTY FOR ASSAULT ON SIKHS IN AUSTRALIA



A court in Australia sentenced 'Tiranga Warrior' Vishal Jood, a youth from Haryana living on an expired visa, to a prison term for attacking Sikhs in a series of violent assaults in Sydney.

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA (TIP): A court in Australia sentenced 'Tiranga Warrior' Vishal Jood, a youth from Haryana living on an expired visa, to a prison term for attacking Sikhs in a series of violent assaults in Sydney.

Haryana Chief Minister ML Khattar, BJP leader Kapil Mishra, Olympian Yogeshwar Dutt and Delhi BJP spokesperson Tejinder Bagga have sought Jood's release.

There is also a social media campaign claiming that Jood was actually a 'Tiranga Warrior' who was trying to protect the Indian flag from being dishonored by 'Khalistanis'.

Magistrate K Thompson in a Parramatta Court on Thursday sentenced Jood, in jail since April, said Vivek Asri of NRI Affairs, Australia, who has been tracking the case.

The sentence carries six months of parole. As Jood has already spent 4 months and 17 days in jail, he could become eligible for parole on 15 October. However, his expired visa clouds the prospects of his early release, as it is likely that he will be sent to a detention center awaiting deportation.

In a plea-bargaining process, Jood pleaded guilty to three main charges. These included assault, 'occasioning actual bodily harm in company of others' and 'armed with intention to commit indictable offence'. The prosecution dropped the other charges.

Jood's lawyer, Asri, told the court that the Haryana youth comes from a place where Hindus and Sikhs co-exist 'in peace' and argued that his action was spontaneous and out of fear. There was no evidence that it was motivated because of the victim's Sikh faith, he pleaded.

The magistrate noted that it was "one of the burdens of living in the society to not to succumb to provocation".

He said that the urge to pick up an object and strike someone, especially when they are down on the ground, must be resisted. Such behavior cannot be condoned, Magistrate Thompson added, reported NRI Affairs.

He had last appeared before the court on August 12 when the court had set new hearing dates in January 2022.

Indian-origin In Canada Develops Web System to Limit Covid-19 Misinformation

TORONTO (TIP): A team led by an Indian-origin researcher in Canada has developed a new system that increases the correctness and reliability of online health-related searches by 80 per cent to help people make better decisions about topics such as COVID-19.

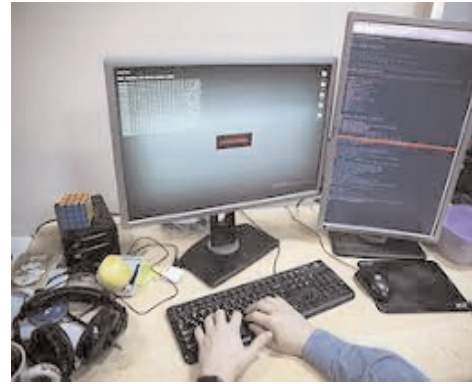
The team at the University of Waterloo in Canada noted that the Internet search engines are the most common tools the public uses to look for facts about COVID-19 and its effect on their health.

A proliferation of misinformation can have real consequences, so the team created a way to make these searches more reliable.

"With so much new information coming out all the time, it can be challenging for people to know what is true and what is not," said Ronak Pradeep, a PhD student in the Cheriton School of Computer Science at Waterloo and lead author of a study.

"But the consequences of misinformation can be pretty bad, like people going out and buying medicines or using home remedies that can hurt them," Mr. Pradeep said.

The researchers said even the big



search engines that host billions of searches every day cannot keep up since there has been so much scientific data and research on COVID-19 in such a short time.

"Most of the systems are trained on well-curated data, so they don't always know how to differentiate between an article promoting drinking bleach to prevent COVID-19 as opposed to real health information," Mr. Pradeep said.

"Our goal is to help people see the right articles and get the right information so they can make better decisions in general with things like COVID," he added.

Mr. Pradeep said the project aims to refine Internet search programs to promote the best health information for users.

The team has leveraged its two-stage neural re-ranking architecture for search which they augmented with a label prediction system trained to discern correct from dubious and incorrect information.

The system links with a search protocol that relies on data from the World Health Organization (WHO) and verified information as the basis for ranking, promoting and sometimes even excluding online articles.

"Our design can potentially improve consumer health search to combat misinformation, a challenge recently amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic," the authors of the study wrote.

Mr. Pradeep and other authors Xueguang Ma, Rodrigo Nogueira and Jimmy Lin, from the University of Waterloo, presented a paper on the preliminary findings of the system at SIGIR '21, a conference on research and development in information retrieval, held between July 11-15 online."

Indian-origin man sentenced to 6-month reformatory training for sexually assaulting his friend in Singapore

THE ACCUSED HARI KISHEN BALAKRISHNAN SEXUALLY ASSAULTED HIS VICTIM FOR ABOUT 17 MINUTES IN A BEDROOM OF A FRIEND'S APARTMENT

SINGAPORE (TIP): An Indian-origin man in Singapore was sentenced on Wednesday, September 1, to at least six months' reformatory training, a regimented rehabilitation programme for under 21 years who commit serious crimes, for performing sexual acts on his drunk friend.

Hari Kishen Balakrishnan, 20, had pleaded guilty earlier this year to one count each of sexual assault by penetration and making an obscene film. Another charge of molestation was taken into consideration for sentencing. He committed the offence on November 7 last year.

Balakrishnan, took seven video clips of him performing sex acts on the drunk and naked 23-year-old victim, a friend whom he had given alcohol, the Today newspaper reported.

Though he had deleted the clips of sexual acts, police later recovered them during forensic investigations, it said.

The prosecution pointed out that if Balakrishnan was sentenced as an adult offender, he could have been jailed for at least six years and subjected to caning. Offenders are given a minimum period of



reformatory training that is subject to how they respond to the rehabilitation.

District Judge May Mesenas stressed that rehabilitation was the predominant sentencing consideration for young offenders, but given the seriousness of Balakrishnan's offences, deterrence had to feature in the punishment as well.

The accused sexually assaulted his victim for about 17 minutes in a bedroom of a friend's apartment.

The victim was almost unconscious and had no strength to open her eyes or fight back, but could feel what the accused was doing, the court heard.

Balakrishnan was arrested a day after committing the offence. Police officers seized the phone that he had used to film the victim, the report said.

Adult offenders convicted of sexual assault by penetration can be jailed for up to 20 years, as well as fined or caned.

For making an obscene film, offenders can be fined between Singapore dollars 20,000 to 40,000 or jailed up to two years, or both. (Source: PTI)



Indian American Saurabh Mehta awarded endowed professorship by Cornell University

NEW YORK (TIP): Indian American researcher Saurabh Mehta is among four professors from Cornell University's College of Human Ecology who have been awarded endowed professorships for ground-breaking research and outreach in a broad range of disciplines.

Mehta, a physician and epidemiologist with expertise in nutrition, infectious disease and diagnostics, has been named the Janet and Gordon Lankton Professor in the Division of Nutritional Sciences, Ithaca, New York based private Ivy League institution announced.

The focus of Mehta's research is the interplay between nutrition, inflammation and disease during pregnancy and early childhood.

This is achieved through a combination of active surveillance programs, invention of point-of-care diagnostics and randomized controlled trials in resource-limited settings in India, Sub-Saharan Africa and South America.

Mehta is currently the principal investigator on two randomized clinical trials - one in the urban slums of Mumbai and one in rural southern India - to determine the effects of delivering nutrients such as iron and vitamin A through biofortified crops on nutrition, immune function and the gut microbiome in infants.

He is also the co-inventor of the



Saurabh Mehta is among four professors from Cornell University's College of Human Ecology who have been awarded endowed professorships for ground-breaking research

Cornell NutriPhone and FeverPhone, a platform funded by the National Institute of Health and the National Science Foundation that provides point-of-care diagnosis of nutritional status and infections.

This platform is field-friendly, non-invasive and inexpensive, requires minimal infrastructure or training, and yields results in as little as 15 minutes.

"I am very grateful to the College of Human Ecology and the Division of Nutritional Sciences for this honor and for the continued support of my research

program," Mehta said.

"The funds from this endowment will help generate pilot data for methods to evaluate biomarkers of nutrition, inflammation and infection to inform screening programs and interventions to improve the health of vulnerable populations."

Among the other three, Anthony Burrow's work focuses on sense of purpose, or the feeling that one has a meaningful direction in life.

Juan Hinestroza's work explores the interface between the established field of textile science and the emerging and revolutionary field of nanoscale science.

Janet Loebach's work focuses on designing youth-friendly environments and communities, then examining how these environments impact play, learning behaviors, mobility and healthy development.

"I am so grateful for the generous donors who funded these endowed professorships, allowing us to honor some of our most highly-regarded and impactful faculty members," said Rachel Dunifon, the Rebecca Q. and James C. Morgan Dean of the College of Human Ecology.

"Through their work, these scholars address issues critical for human health and well-being and improve human lives. I am happy to be able to support and recognize them."

INDIAN JALANDHAR-BASED LAWYER CLEARS BARRISTER EXAM IN CANADA

JALANDHAR (TIP): The city-based advocate Manu Jindal has become a barrister in Canada. After pursuing LLB from Guru Nanak Dev University, Jindal started practicing in 1999 here.



India Manu Jindal has become a barrister in Canada

He became a member of the District Bar Association, Jalandhar, and member of the Punjab and Haryana High Court Bar Association.

The 47-year-old said, "Becoming a lawyer in Canadian is a tough job that, too, while living in India. It seemed unrealistic, but time favored me. Exams were held online. One needs to be at par with Canadian law graduates. Assessment is done by NCA in Canada and then one needs to clear at least five core subjects varying up to eight and seven optional subjects."

He said, "One can enroll in any of the 13 law societies in Canada. I opted for Law Society of Ontario (LSO). The LSO's lawyer licensing process is known to be the toughest after New York Bar course." (Agencies)

INDIAN AMERICAN THREATENS PUNJAB CM: FIR REGISTERED CAPT. AMARINDER SINGH WARNS SFJ AGAINST DISTURBING PEACE



A First Information Report against New York based Gurbatwant Singh Pannu has been registered for threatening Punjab CM

CHANDIGARH / NEW YORK (TIP): The Punjab Police have booked alleged ISI-backed Khalistan ideologue Gurbatwant Singh Pannu over his repeated attempts to promote violence in the state and recent assassination threat against Chief Minister Capt. Amarinder Singh. The CM has warned Pannu against any attempt to disturb peace and communal harmony in the state. In a statement, the CM said any bid by the banned Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) and its self-styled general counsel to create trouble in Punjab would be countered with the full might of the government. The FIR has been registered against Pannu, his associates, and SFJ members at the state cybercrime police station, SAS Nagar.

Indian Americans hold candlelight vigil in honor of 13 US soldiers killed in Kabul attack

WASHINGTON (TIP), August 30: Mourning the loss of 13 American soldiers in a terrorist attack in Kabul last week, Indian-Americans held candlelight peace vigils in various cities across the country and urged the Biden administration to ensure that the perpetrators of the act are brought to justice.

A small group of about 20 Indian Americans gathered at the reflecting pond in front of the US Capitol for a candlelight vigil for US service members killed in the suicide attack at the Kabul airport.

"We have gathered here to mourn the loss of our fallen soldiers in Kabul. This is a heinous act of terrorism. Coming from India, which has been a victim of terrorism, we urge the US government to take strong action against all those involved in terrorism," community activist Adapa Prasad said.



A small group of about 20 Indian Americans gathered at the reflecting pond in front of the US Capitol for a candlelight vigil for US service members killed in the suicide attack at the Kabul airport.

Candlelight vigils were also held in New York, Jersey City, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Atlanta, Houston, Boston, Dallas, Chicago, Ohio Columbus, Connecticut, among others.

"The Indian American community stands with the families of the fallen soldiers in Afghanistan, who made the supreme sacrifice for the country in the

line of duty. They will never be forgotten", Achalesh Amar, long-time community member and activist, said.

Several people were holding flowers, placards, flags and pictures of the fallen members in Houston, Texas. A few members of the Afghan-American community also joined the vigil.

Local veteran groups have also responded to the passing of Texas fallen soldier David Lee Espinoza. The local chapter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, whose members have fought in international conflicts like Afghanistan and elsewhere, said they offered their condolences and wishes to the family during this difficult time.

Texas Governor Greg Abbott on Friday had ordered all flags on state property lowered to half-staff to honor Espinoza, 20, and other military members killed in the Kabul attack.

Premium Indians USA Kings Cricket Team Launched for American Premiere League Season One to be held in NJ from Sept 20 to 30

WOODBIDGE, NJ (TIP): Finally professional cricket has arrived in USA with American Cricket League (APL) announcing the 1st season of the seven-nation league in New Jersey. Jay Mir, the founder and Chairman of APL with his vision to bring highest quality cricket in T20 format set out and sought the approval from the United States Cricket Board which reports to ICC. A sport which is followed by about two billion fans, cricket is long sought after by cricket lovers in USA. Though the game was 1st played in USA in late 1800s, but it never took roots. Now with about 20 million immigrants from countries where cricket is 2nd religion, the game had to be launched. Jay formed American Sports and Entertainment Group and built his plan on the lines of IPL. He announced the exciting tournament in summer and starting to auction the teams. He sold Pakistani, English, Australian and West Indies team quite quickly but held on to the most coveted and sought-after team of Premium Indians. He was looking for an enterprising businessman who would bring in the best to APL with a premium Indian team.

And Sam Singh, the fast-growing NRI from North India was the best fit. Sam has been growing very quickly in the entertainment space in USA and sports was a natural step forward. Sam with his Chief consultant Sunil Hali, a veteran in marketing, entertainment and media space worked closely with Jay to firm up the offer. Rest is now history as Sam Singh becomes the 1st and proud owner of Premium Indians USA KINGS, the Indian team for APL.

Befitting to the APL and in line with size of Indian community in USA, the announcement was made at a glittering



TV Asia Chairman H R Shah speaking at the launch

event with cream de la creme at the Lake Chateau in Woodbridge on August 30, 2021. About 100 plus guests from Tri-state with leading media attended the evening as Sam announced his team. Sam said, "Good evening everyone. I am humbled with your presence to join us on this historic day when we are making a dream come true. We all have lived with cricket since childhood. Amongst many other things that we missed all these years IN USA, cricket is certainly on top of the list. We watch Cricket on TV, in cinema halls and online. But we still were missing the real life experience. Now the moment is here. I got the opportunity to explore cricket in reality in USA. And obviously I took the Indian team to represent our nation. I am working day and night with my team and APL to make sure we present true and competitive cricket. While as a sportsman I wish every team a great success but my dream is to win the 1st season and you all to join to cheer our team in every game. I can assure you it will be exciting and satisfying especially

when you each come with family and friends. Please join us in every game. to make this a Grand success. I thank Jay Mir, Chairman of APL who has created this event. Let'scelebrate. AMERICAN PREMIERE LEAGUE".

Mr. Hali expanded on the plans to present the Premium Indians in best possible way and target to win the 1st season which has a winning prize of \$75,000 and eye of 5 million plus NRIs. "We plan to have a very competent team that will be highly professional and play the game at the in best way. We are aware of the expectations and building the team with great care. It is a long haul over next few seasons when we will take the game to the highest level and make it an international cricketing event in coming years".

Jay Mir was highly appreciative of Sam Singh for stepping forward and buying the Premium Indians USA Kings. He looks forward to a close association with Sam to build APL as Premium Indians is the hottest team. Jay has a vision to build

APL with more teams in coming years from countries which have strong community presence in USA. Said Jay, "I want to bring communities together and build through cricket".

Asif Jamal, President of APL and COO of ARY Digital North America was all praises for Mr. Mir for launching such enterprise. He was one of the firsts to join the project from ARY Digital. And provided full support to Jay Mir to get the project off the ground. Said Asif, "ARY Digital has been in forefront when it comes to cricket in sub-continent. And now we are with cricket from 1st day as it enters in USA".

The event was attended by PadmaShri Dr H R Shah, Chairman and CEO of TV Asia who has been in forefront to promote college cricket in USA. He praised promoter Jay Mir for bringing professional cricket to USA. Mr. Shah confirmed his support to APL from TV Asia all the way as he himself has been a cricketer in his college days and his TV Asia has always served the community in best possible manner.

The ten-day cricket tournament starts on September 20th and is till 30th. With two games during day and one at night in Yogi Berra Stadium in Little Falls in New Jersey, the league follows T20 format. Opening ceremony is set for September 13, 2021 at the stadium with top performing musical groups of Junoon and world famous Shazia Manzoor. Seven teams involve Indian, Pakistani, England, Australian, West Indies, Bangladeshi and American. For more details visit web site: www.PremiumIndiansUSAKING.com and www.AmericanPremierLeague.org.

(Press release issued by Sunil Hali)

Defendant sentenced to 15 Years in Prison after pleading guilty to Manslaughter for killing alleged rival

QUEENS, NY (TIP): Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz announced today that Chaz Reyes, 31, has been sentenced to 15 years in prison for the July 2017 shooting death of a 26-year-old man near a 21st Street bus stop in the vicinity of the Ravenswood Houses in Astoria, Queens.

District Attorney Katz said, "In pleading guilty, the defendant has admitted to killing a perceived rival when the victim happened to pass by him on a bicycle in broad daylight. Without regard for human life, the defendant fired multiple shots at the victim, who was near a bus stop and various businesses, in the middle of the day. The victim was killed, but anyone in the area

could have also been shot. The defendant has now been sentenced by the Court for his actions."

Reyes, of 36th Avenue in Long Island City, Queens, pleaded guilty on May 27, 2021, to manslaughter in the first degree before Queens Supreme Court Justice Kenneth Holder. Today, Justice Holder sentenced the Reyes to 15 years in prison, to be followed by five years' post release supervision.

District Attorney Katz said, according to court records, on July 16, 2017, at approximately noon, Reyes was walking near a bus stop at the intersection of 36th Avenue and 21st Street in Astoria, Queens, when he encountered Tyrell Smith. The victim was riding a bike at

the time. Reyes - armed with an illegal gun - fired multiple shots in Mr. Smith's direction. Three bullets ripped into the victim's chest. The defendant ran from the scene and into a nearby apartment building.

Mr. Smith was taken to a local hospital where he died from the injuries.

Senior Assistant District Attorney Jonathan Selkove of the District Attorney's Homicide Bureau is prosecuting the case, with the assistance of Assistant District Attorney Adarna DeFrias, under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Peter McCormick III, Senior Deputy Bureau Chief, John Kosinski and Karen Ross, Deputy Bureau Chiefs, and under the



Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz

overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Daniel Saunders.

Long Island Indo-American Lions Club Gala a big draw

LONG ISLAND, NY (TIP): Long Island Indo-American Lions Club hosted its 1st Annual Gala on August 29th at Leonard's Palazzo, Great Neck, Long Island. It was a full house.

The Program began with greetings & warm welcome by The Gala Chairs Gobind Bathija & Dr. Sunil Mehra. They introduced the Emcees of the evening Event Chair-Anju Sharma and Program Coordinator Poojaa Makhajani. The Event was dedicated to Covid victims and Front-Line Heroes. A moment of silence was observed in the memory of victims and also Front-line workers were

applauded for their commendable services.

A beautiful prayer dance was presented by Khushi Oza, seeking God's blessing for the wellness of all. As per Lions club protocol Pledge of Allegiance was said by Pradeep Tandon, Lion Club's prayer was offered by Rita Shah and Toast was given by Sanju Sharma followed by Toast to the Queen by Krishna Maddipatla.

President Indu Gajwani was introduced by Anju Sharma who highlighted her lifetime achievements, her dedication, services and leadership as club president. Indu Gajwani also welcomed all. She



OBITUARY



IN LOVING MEMORY OF ATMA SINGH

Funeral Services: Saturday, September 4th, 2021

Funeral: 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Franklin Memorial Park

1800 NJ -27

North Brunswick, NJ 08902

Antim Ardas/ Bhog: 1 PM

Nanak Naam Jahaj Gurudwara

1080 West Side Ave

Jersey City, NJ 07306

Zoom Viewing:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3588577289?pwd=Tzh5NW8yR3R0TEhoK3VkbkRlR0JkZ09>

[Tzh5NW8yR3R0TEhoK3VkbkRlR0JkZ09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3588577289?pwd=Tzh5NW8yR3R0TEhoK3VkbkRlR0JkZ09)

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Rammohan Gadula	732-207-5481
Vijay Tiwari	908-963-5276

spoke about the club achievements, projects/events organized for community which included Food Drive, Clothes drive, Fight against blindness, Eyesight testing, Donation of Eyeglasses, Health Fair etc. The club also made contributions for Cancer Care, Kids toys and to many other organizations. As a whole the club has done a tremendous amount of work in a short period of time despite of no 'in person' activities during Pandemic.

Among many honorable guests the event was graced by Lions Club Dignitaries, District governor- Paula Umreiko Immediate past district governor-Terri Oster, 1st VDG- Rupal Sehgal, PCC-Andy Umreiko, PDG-T.J. Anand, PDG-Anthony Paradiso, PDG-NJ-Nancy Jakubezyk & Harish Mehta. President Indu Gajwani recognized her team. The members of the executive committee and chairs were honored for their dedication, hard work and support. Raja Singh who represented Senator Thomas Kevin, were presented to the executive members. The Sponsors whose contribution helped in hosting this event and carry out various projects throughout the year were recognized and honored by distinguish guests. We are Grateful to Dr. Purna Chandra Atluri, Nand Punjwani, Bobby Patel, Kanak Golia, Barathi Reddy, Thulasi Reddy, Naveen Shah, Dr. Jay Sarkar, Meena & Anil Shah, Gobind Bathija, Vijay Patel, Anupam Yadav, Dr. Kalpesh Amin for their generous contribution. A moment of silence was also observed in memory and honor of

Afghanistan Martyrs led by Dr. Raj Bhayani and Mukesh Modi. Nimesh Shah- Club secretary gave Vote of Thanks. He thanked the guests for gracing the Gala, Sponsors for their generous contribution, media for the coverage and fellow lions for their dedication and support.

Raffle draw was a fun time. It was handled by Anju Sharma, Poojaa Makhajani and Sanju Sharma. The raffle prizes were donated by our club members. The Raffle team is grateful to Krishna Maddipatla, Kanak Golia, Saurabh Seth, Govind Oza, Indu Gajwani, Anju & Sanju Sharma, Nimesh Shah, Vijay Shah and Pradeep Gosalia for their generosity. A special Note of Thanks to Vandana Kumar & Yogini Oza for handling the sale of Raffle tickets. The winning tickets were drawn in public and winners were handed over prizes. Thanks to Sanju Sharma and Hement Christian for the videos and pictures display during the event.

Our appreciation and Thanks to Reception team-Rita Shah, Shila Shah, Sital Shah for a fabulous job. Thanks to Poojaa Makhajani, Anju Sharma, Sanju Sharma, Indu Gajwani, Vandana Kumar, Vijay Shah, Pradeep Gosalia, Saurabh Seth, Nimesh Shah for help in decoration and organizing Plaques/Awards. A big note of Thanks to Shyam Gajwani- backbone of the whole program. There are no words to express his dedication, contribution and hard work for the club.

(Press Release issued by Indu Gajwani)

AS I SEE IT

INDIA MADE ITS UNSC PRESIDENCY COUNT



BY GURJIT SINGH

Focused on maritime security, peacekeeping and counterterrorism during its presidency of the UN Security Council in August

"Undoubtedly, it was the pandemic-induced virtual mode that allowed the Prime Minister to participate in the session. It is unlikely that had the virtual opportunity not existed, the Prime Minister would have flown to New York to chair the session. It is significant that background diplomacy couched the presidential statement under "Maintenance of international peace and security", which covered references to UNCLOS (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea) despite Chinese objections. The ASEAN countries, currently represented by Vietnam in the UNSC, must be grateful for keeping this reference as they deal with China over a code of conduct in the South China Sea. China is not fond of the UNCLOS. The USA has not ratified it yet."

India held the month-long presidency of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) during August. During the two-year term (2021-22), India will again have the opportunity to preside over the Security Council in December 2022.

Three initiatives were taken during India's presidency. These related to maritime security, UN peacekeeping and counterterrorism. This set agenda was effectively presented by India, as these are critical to the country's current policies.

Maritime security is a major issue, especially in the Indo-Pacific. The aggressive moves by China have led to the evolution of Indo-Pacific policies by several countries and the consolidation of the Quad. Keeping a rule-based order and preventing a hegemonistic role for China are critical for India's continuing rise. For this end, maritime security was indeed a wise move to focus the attention of the UNSC.

This was effectively communicated by the unique manner of having the Prime Minister himself chair the Security Council at that session. Never before has an Indian Prime Minister undertaken this role. It showed the seriousness with which India treated this at the UNSC, and the lead it intended to take. Thanks to the Prime Minister's participation, leaders like Russian President Putin, President Kenyatta of Kenya, the PM of Vietnam and the US Secretary of State, French Foreign Minister and the UK Defense Secretary also participated. It gave 'Enhancing maritime security' a much higher profile than it would have acquired otherwise.

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India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar presides over a UNSC meeting - Photo / PTI

flown to New York to chair the session. It is significant that background diplomacy couched the presidential statement under "Maintenance of international peace and security", which covered references to UNCLOS (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea) despite Chinese objections. The ASEAN countries, currently represented by Vietnam in the UNSC, must be grateful for keeping this reference as they deal with China over a code of conduct in the South China Sea. China is not fond of the UNCLOS. The USA has not ratified it yet.

A second initiative related to peacekeeping. India's credentials for a larger role in the world, and a permanent seat in the UNSC were initially buttressed by its superb role in peacekeeping since its inception. For many years, India was the leading troop-contributing country, and remains an important one. Now, India has been a member of the Peacebuilding Commission from its inception in 2005. The session to discuss peacekeeping operations (PKO) was chaired by the External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar, who specially flew to New York for this purpose.

Prior to this, India announced a contribution of \$1 million for supporting the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). Many recall that in the 1990s, India was a major contributor to the UN Mission in Somalia. India contributed \$150,000 to the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) this year, bringing the total to about \$6 million since its inception.

India's initiative on peacekeeping operations focused on 'Protecting the protectors. A resolution on 'Accountability of crimes against UN peacekeepers' and the first ever presidential statement on 'Technology for peacekeeping' were achieved.

The third initiative related to counterterrorism. There is no doubt about the validity of this issue. India has consistently been talking about it in bilateral and plurilateral meetings. India has endeavored to focus the attention of the world community on countering terror effectively, the role of Pakistan, and the emerging situation in Afghanistan which are a deep cause of concern. They are not ameliorated by sufficient action by the international community. Hence, the focus on counterterrorism by India was well thought out and constructive. The EAM spoke about the situation in Kabul, adding to the importance of the issue. Holding the Taliban accountable was the focus of the resolution

During the two years in the UNSC, the presidency gives an opportunity for focusing on critical issues beyond the regular work of the Security Council. Such special efforts draw attention to India's role and interests. India has grasped the opportunity well and brought public visibility to issues of importance.

but due to the changed situation in Kabul, the reference to Taliban was omitted. Russia and China abstained from the resolution but it shows that the other powers too are ready to accommodate the Taliban and that is what India is cautious about.

The UNSC agenda is not solely decided by the president for the month. Therefore, if India could achieve its three major initiatives and put them on the agenda for discussion, it should be considered a sign of success for Indian diplomacy. A pat to the Permanent Mission of India in New York is recommended.

Obtaining agenda approval in a period of dynamic flux in international politics is by itself an achievement. Separately, India had to grapple with issues concerning Myanmar, Ethiopia, Mali and Sudan and the sudden turn of events in Afghanistan, where a calibrated US withdrawal by August 31 would have brought Afghanistan on the agenda in September. But the sudden takeover of Kabul by the Taliban brought the Afghanistan issue into prominence earlier than expected. The UNSC session on Afghanistan was chaired by Foreign Secretary Harsh Shringla on the last day of the Indian presidency.

With Russia and China abstaining, a pattern emerged. Both were consistently voting together. India on occasion, say while discussing Africa, particularly Ethiopia, stood with Russia and China to avoid intrusive efforts by the UNSC. Ethiopia was very admiring of the balanced role of India.

During August, four presidential statements were issued on PKO - peace consolidation in West Africa, maintenance of international peace and security, Sudan and South Sudan. In no month this year were so many issues raised by any presidency. Four resolutions were adopted on Somalia, Middle East, Mali and PKO. Some of the themes were also covered during India's presidency of the UNSC in 2011-12 when Hardeep Puri was the Indian Permanent Representative to the UN. This shows that the UNSC is not successful in resolving issues. Its reform needs attention.

During the two years in the UNSC, the presidency gives an opportunity for focusing on critical issues beyond the regular work of the Security Council. Such special efforts draw attention to India's role and interests. India has grasped the opportunity well and brought public visibility to issues of importance.

The themes set by India for its term on the UNSC included the 5S approach with Samman (respect), Samvad (dialogue), Sahyog (cooperation), Shanti (peace) and Samridhhi (prosperity). For this, India would stand with multilateralism, rule of law and a fair and equitable international system. Most of these objectives were highlighted through the month of the Indian presidency of the UNSC.

(The author is a former ambassador)

India must commit to net zero emissions

THE COUNTRY WILL NEED TO TAKE A STAND ON CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION OR RISK BEING CAST GLOBALLY AS AN OUTLIER



BY PATRICK SUCKLING

"The transition of the global economy to net zero emissions is the biggest commercial opportunity in history. In just the energy sector alone, an estimated \$1.6 to \$3.8 trillion of investment is required every year until 2050. China gets this, which is why it is investing heavily in gaining an advantage in the technologies of the new economy, be it renewable energy and storage, electric and hydrogen transport, low emissions industry, green cities or sustainable agriculture. India needs to be riding this wave."

India is at the risk of being cast globally as an outlier on climate action, with a negative fallout. With over 50% of the global economy already committed to net zero emissions by 2050 - and China committing to be so before 2060 - this is not where you want to be.

The pace and scale of climate action is only set to increase, with the recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report unequivocal on the need for urgent and stronger responses. Events around the world underline the point - towns washed away in Germany, subways turned into storm water drains in China, forests fried in the United States and so many more lives lost to flooding in India.

Massive opportunities

It is not only governments that are increasing climate action. The business world is too, not just to protect themselves against the risks of climate change but also to take advantage of the massive opportunities arising as the global economy shifts to net zero emissions. Last year, investors injected over \$500 billion into climate transition. In my country, Australia, the number of major companies that have put in place a target of reaching net zero emissions by 2050 has more than trebled in the past year.

The United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) in November in



Students march for climate action

Glasgow is shaping up to be the most important climate meeting since the Paris Agreement in 2015. It is squarely focused on supercharging global ambition and action on climate change, as all countries, including India, agreed to do in the historic Paris Agreement.

Over 100 countries have already committed to net zero emissions by 2050, with more expected at COP26. Two key holdouts are India and Australia. In the case of my country, under mounting pressure at home and internationally, the government is moving toward such an announcement and I am confident they will do so by or at COP26.

I am not so confident about India. From what I hear through networks from my time as the Australian High Commissioner to India and as Australia's Ambassador for the Environment, India is resolutely not committing to net zero by 2050, including on the basis that as a developing country, it needs to see significant support from developed countries for climate action as part of making any such commitment.

Perhaps this is negotiating tactics. Either way, I fear India may shoot itself in the foot by resisting net zero by 2050.

First, India itself has a national interest in ambitious global and national climate action. Like Australia, it is among the most vulnerable countries to climate change and, therefore, should be among the more active against the threats. India faces harmful impacts related to sea level rise, heat stress, drought, water stress and flooding, biodiversity and natural disasters. Climate change is not coming - it is here.

Second, as a rising power, India naturally seeks stronger influence globally. Being an outlier on the global challenge facing our generation does not support this aim. India is already the third largest emitter in the world and is set to be the largest as the United States, China, and the European Union are all now signed up to net zero.

This will become a significant drag on India's international diplomacy. This applies not just to key relationships like with the U.S., where President Joe Biden's administration is mainstreaming climate action into its economic, foreign and security policy, but also with much of the Group of 77 (G77) states, who are increasingly concerned to see climate action, and in

multilateral groupings such as the United Nations and ASEAN-APEC.

Finally, as the famous phrase goes, "it's the economy, stupid". There is no longer a trade-off between reducing emissions and economic growth. For example, the U.K. has reduced emissions over 40% and grown its economy over 70% since 1990. Solar energy costs have fallen 90% in recent years, providing the cheapest electricity in India ever seen. Also, given the negative impacts, addressing climate change in India's economic development is now central to success, not an added luxury to consider. For example, agricultural policy that does not consider adaptive approaches to maximize productivity in the face of increased flooding and drought due to climate change is derelict.

The report also said that if climate change is addressed and acted upon boldly and rapidly in the next decade, average global temperature rises can be limited to around 1.5° Celsius by 2050.

The transition of the global economy to net zero emissions is the biggest commercial opportunity in history. In just the energy sector alone, an estimated \$1.6 to \$3.8 trillion of investment is required every year until 2050. China gets this, which is why it is investing heavily in gaining an advantage in the technologies of the new economy, be it renewable energy and storage, electric and hydrogen transport, low emissions industry, green cities or sustainable agriculture. India needs to be riding this wave.

It is not as if India is at a standing start. It is set to significantly exceed its Paris Agreement commitment of reducing the emissions intensity of its GDP by 33-35% below 2005 levels by 2030, providing ready room for higher ambition. India is impressing the world with its leading roll-out of renewable energy and target for 450GW by 2030, linked to its leadership on the International Solar Alliance and recent national hydrogen strategy. Indian corporates are also stepping up, with the Tata Group winning awards on sustainability, Mahindra committing to net zero by 2040 and Reliance by 2035. There is plenty on which to build.

A low-carbon future through sector-led change

And India should not be expected to

Yet, in the end, India's tryst with destiny rests in its own remarkable hands, as it always has been. In a land where the earth is called mother, and Mahatma Gandhi, major religions and the Constitution enshrine environmental care, commitment to net zero emissions by 2050 should almost be foretold. The world hopes we will see it soon.

build alone. India's national interests on climate action are now engaged in ways that go significantly beyond waiting for donor support to drive ambition, notwithstanding reasonable arguments about historical responsibility, per capita emissions and equity. With growing wealth and stature, India is increasingly disinclined toward handouts. But that does not mean well-targeted donor investments and international partnerships should not be a factor in raising India's climate ambition. In fact, they should be, as it is more and more obvious that the world needs to work together for success.

This could come in many guises, from stronger political engagement and dialogue to policy support in areas of mutual challenge such as energy policy, carbon markets and post-COVID green economic recovery. Practical support and cooperation in areas like rolling out renewable energy and integrating it with the national grid, zero emissions transport, decarbonizing hard to abate sectors like steel, cement and chemicals and decarbonizing agriculture offer significant scope to raise ambition. As does working with India on innovative green financing for decarbonizing investments, including using donor support to mobilize private sector finance, green bonds and climate transition funds. Whichever it is, they need to be lasting partnerships that deliver results.

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(Patrick Suckling was Australia's High Commissioner to India and Ambassador for the Environment. He is a senior fellow at the Asia Society Policy Institute (ASPI) and senior partner in Pollination, a specialist climate advisory and investment firm. This oped draws from his recent paper for ASPI on Catalysing India's Climate Ambition)

SUBVERSION OF TRUTH

CENTRAL AGENCIES AND POLICE BEING MISUSED TO REDRAW POLITICAL EQUATIONS



BY JULIO RIBEIRO

"The spectacle of leaders being arraigned for crimes when they are in the Opposition and getting let off when they cross over is making a mockery of the rule of law. Truth, which is, and should be, indivisible, simply does not matter. Police officers told to catch criminals now need a total revamp of what they are taught during their training. They have to simply know the political colorations of the accused to decide whether they are guilty or innocent. The truth is not relevant. The problem arises when the chameleon changes color once too often. Rewriting papers is not easy. It is a crime in itself. Only the culprits now will be the law-keepers."

Last week the police in Maharashtra was tasked with arresting a union minister, who was once the chief minister of the state. The Police Superintendent of Ratnagiri district was embarrassed to perform the task. A video released by the Opposition shows him arguing with Anil Parab, the state Transport Minister and a confidant of CM Uddhav Thackeray, pleading for a warrant for the arrest. The ongoing tussle between the BJP government at the Centre and the MVA government in Maharashtra is taking a predestined turn. The ED opened an inquiry against Parab soon after he was heard 'ordering' the Superintendent to arrest Narayan Rane. This tit-for-tat scenario will persist as long as the MVA government lasts.

The Central investigation agencies and the Maharashtra Police will be roped in to settle political scores and redraw political equations. Is this what they are paid and trained to do? People should ask pointed questions and insist on answers. Unleashing the CBI, the NIA and the ED on its political opponents at opportune times has become standard practice today. This trend has become particularly prominent since the past two years. Last week, Kripa Shankar Singh, a former minister in the Congress regime in Maharashtra, and the Congress face in Mumbai's northern suburbs where North Indians live, joined the BJP. Kripa Shankar had several Central agency inquiries pending against him. It is commonly known that he will be absolved of his sins now and the MVA, which includes the Congress, may ferret out commissions and omissions that it had failed to notice when he adorned its ranks.

The spectacle of leaders being arraigned for crimes when they are in the Opposition and getting let off when they cross over is making a mockery of the rule of law. Truth, which is, and should be, indivisible, simply does not matter. Police officers told to catch criminals now need a total revamp of what they are taught during their training. They have to simply know the political colorations of the accused to decide whether they are



Partisan: Are the police paid and trained to settle political scores? People should ask pointed questions and insist on answers.

Photo / PTI

guilty or innocent. The truth is not relevant. The problem arises when the chameleon changes color once too often. Rewriting papers is not easy. It is a crime in itself. Only the culprits now will be the law-keepers.

Remember what the CBI did to the case against Suvendu Adhikari and the four other TMC ministers/legislators who were caught on camera accepting small-time bribes? Adhikari was accused of accepting Rs 5 lakh, his associates Rs 1 lakh each. But the CBI put up a charge sheet only against those who took Rs 1 lakh and left out Adhikari because he had joined the BJP. In West Bengal, the CBI and the state police have been searching for two different sets of culprits for the same offence. We will soon be saddled with policemen who know not the meaning of the word 'truth!' The Delhi Police have approached the investigation of the Delhi riots with that mindset.

Many years ago, when I was a DCP and the eastern suburbs of Mumbai City were in my charge, there was a street gang called the Harya-Narya gang in the limits of Chembur Police Station. The gang was named after its two leaders, Hanmantrao and Narayan. It was only after I had retired from service and returned to the city that a retired junior official who had worked at Chembur Police Station during my DCP days phoned to tell me that 'Narya' of the Harya-Narya gang had become the chief minister of Maharashtra!

Rane, who has survived in politics by changing parties every few years, is now in the BJP. After a patient wait, he finally got his opening. Modi made him a cabinet minister in charge of micro, small and medium enterprises. And it was only when he attained this exalted position that he was finally taken into custody by the police of his parent state. Till then, as it now appears, he did not merit such attention.

The present charge against him though is a trivial one from the public's viewpoint, and mine. From the current CM's viewpoint, it is very serious! And the CM's viewpoint is shared by his cronies in the Shiv Sena party, particularly the transport minister. For Narayan Rane had pointed out that Uddhav Thackeray had

committed a gaffe, an unpardonable one, in his August 15 speech to the people of the state, where he referred to the 75th anniversary of Independence (Amrut) as the 60th (Hirak). Quickly realizing his mistake, the CM turned to whisper to his aide standing behind him. Rane, during his ongoing Jan Ashirvad yatra that every newly inducted NDA Minister was tasked to perform in his own constituency, referred to the gaffe and said if he was the aide or if he was present at the spot he would have administered Uddhav a tight slap.

The CM, who was conducting his office very well till then, apparently felt the sting of the verbal slap. Why he blundered on this occasion is beyond comprehension. He had much to lose by losing his cool. Rane, on the other hand, was attempting to make a comeback after years in the wilderness.

The BJP's principal opponent in the state, the Shiv Sena, originally its partner and friend, has given it a break that it may not have anticipated. If the events are closely examined, the BJP's top brass will realize that Rane's street-fighting credentials have given them an unexpected, albeit significant, victory in what can only be called a street skirmish.

Rane has suddenly come into reckoning as a person of interest. His yatra would have passed off unnoticed. But with Rane accused of something as banal as a virtual slap, it was unwise of Uddhav and his cronies to order the police to arrest Rane, thereby anointing him with an importance that he had not savored for long.

The BJP, with its control over agencies like the CBI, ED, NIA and NCB, routinely released them on the state in politically sensitive cases like the Sushant Singh Rajput suicide and the explosive-laden SUV outside the Ambani residence in an all-out bid to topple the MVA in Maharashtra. Success has evaded it till now. Rane's arrest may give it a much-needed break.

But in the race for power the competing politicians are destroying the very sanctity of truth on the basis of which alone justice has to be delivered.

(The author is a celebrated retired Indian Police Service Officer)



D/FW Hindu Temple Society

Ekta Mandir

**Siddhi Vinayak
Ganpati Mandal**

Invites you, your family and friends to

GANESH UTSAV 2021

Sept. 10th - Sept. 19th

Sept. 10th

8:30am - 12:30pm

Ganesh Homam,
Ganesh Abhishekam,
Ganesh Sthapna

Sept. 17th

6:00pm - 7:00pm

Satyanarayan Katha

Sept 19th

4:00pm

Visarjan

** Due to the ongoing Pandemic situation, all events will be virtual. Mask Required for limited in-person participation. Please Do Not bring Fruits, Nuts, Prasadam or Milk*

Daily Program

6:30pm - 7:30pm

Ganesh Bhajans,
Mahamangala Aarati
Ganesh Aarati

During Temple Hours:

Ganesh Darshan
Ganesh Archana,
(will be done Morning and Evening)
All events live on



Chair: Rajendra Vankawala & Anil Sabnis
Co-Chair: Siddhi Vinayak Ganpati Mandal



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AAPI Launches Adopt-A-Village - A Rural Health Initiative in India

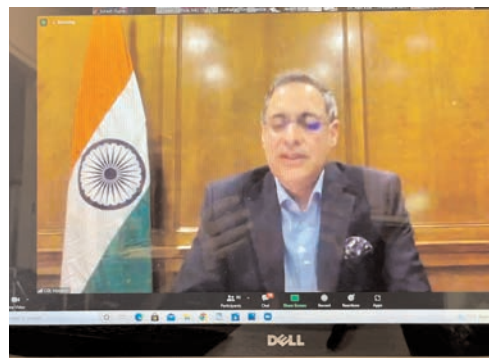
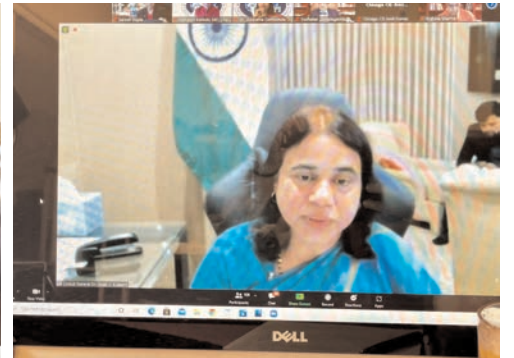
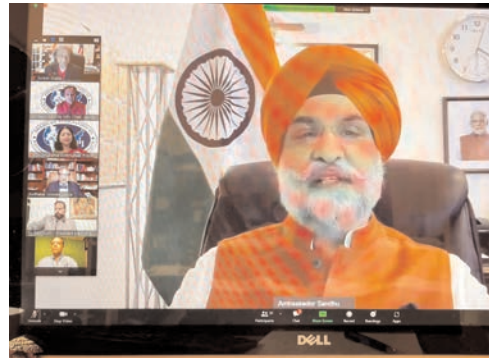
AMBASSADOR TARANJIT SINGH SANDHU & CONSUL GENERALS FROM ALL 5 CONSULATES IN US APPLAUD AAPI'S EFFORTS

CHICAGO (TIP): Continuing with its magnificent efforts to help their motherland, members of American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI), the premier medical organization in the United States initiated Adopt-A-Village, a Rural Health Initiative in India during a virtual launch event on Friday, August 27, 2021. Chaired by, Dr. Satheesh Kathula, the much needed and popular program has Dr. Anupama Gotimukula, Dr. Jagan Ailinani and Dr. Ram Singh as members of the Committee.

In a rare show of support for AAPI, Consul Generals of Chicago, New York, Houston, Atlanta and the Deputy CG of San Francisco participated live during the launch of this noble initiative. Ambassador of India to US, Taranjit Singh Sandhu joined the meeting with his message and lauded the numerous efforts of AAPI for India, especially during the pandemic.

Dr. Anupama Gotimukula, President, AAPI, in her welcome address, referred to the objectives of Adopt-A-Village. "A lot of efforts are being put into this initiative, "Adopt a Village" Project where AAPI in collaboration with Global TeleClinics, Inc., plans to adopt 75 villages in honor of 75 years of India's independence," she said. "As India celebrates her 75th anniversary Independence Day celebrations, AAPI has planned to adopt 75 villages in India spread across the states of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Telangana, where the rural people of India will be offered 'Free Health Screenings in 75 Rural Villages' for Anemia (CBC), DM (HbA1C), High Cholesterol, CKD, Malnutrition, Kidney Disease, Malnutrition, Obesity, and Hypoxemia. Results analyzed by GTC and further action recommended by their team of experts will be also, followed up. This is a small contribution from AAPI to Mother India in celebration of Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav." Dr. Anupama thanked the AAPI members for their generous support for this noble work of AAPI and for sponsoring their ancestral villages and going back to their roots.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Satheesh Kathula, Chairman of AAPI's Adopt A Village Program pointed out about the need for this noble initiative. He said, India has nearly 700,000 villages. Three out of four Indians and about 77 percent of the poor live in villages. The majority of the population has no access to safe drinking water and sanitation. The needs in these rural areas are unlimited and the scope to work are endless. "By adopting one village at a time and working with the government and NGOs, NRIs can make a difference," he said. Dr. Kathula referred to some of the programs in place in



Ambassador of India to US, Taranjit Singh Sandhu joined the meeting with his message while Consul Generals from the five Consulates in the US participated in the meeting

several rural villages, including supply of Cloth mask, clean drinking water and free health care screening that has benefitted thousands of people Across India.

Dr. Ravi Kolli, President-Elect of AAPI, said, "While India has made substantial progress in health care as evidenced by the fact that life expectancy in India at birth now is 71 years as opposed to 58 years in 1990 and 41 years in 1960, there are significant gaps and divergence in health metrics in different regions in India. India, thus needs to redouble and continue its efforts and dedicate resources to tackle these perennial challenges. The post graduate training of physicians specializing in Family Medicine in every teaching institution will create a motivated and well-trained family physicians to address these deficits and deliver accessible, affordable, economical and continuous preventive and primary care to rural as well urban poor populations to raise health outcomes substantially all across India," he said.

"An individual can make a tremendous difference in the lives of many in India by adopting a village," said Dr. Jagan Ailinani, who was instrumental in founding this noble program and set an example by adopting his own birth village in the state of Telangana in India. "A majority of the NRI's hail from villages and would like to do their part to bring progress to villages in our state and country."

Dr. Ram Singh said: "NRIs can adopt the village they hail from originally and make a significant contribution towards its development. There is a real will and desire on the part of governments, both at the state and the center to work with NRIs and NGOs to bring development to rural

India."

Dr. Kusum Punjabi, Chair of AAPI BOT said, "Many of these projects and programs need regular funding, and management of resources. We are grateful to dozens of AAPI members who have committed to Adopting a village in India with an ongoing commitment for investment."

Ambassador Taranjit Singh, in his message to AAPI members, said, "As India is entering 75th year of independence, honoring men and women, who fought for the freedom, we rededicate ourselves to build an India where the dreams and aspirations of India's 13 billion people are realized." He urged the Diaspora community to come forward to honor INDIA by joining in the year-long celebrations.

Dr. Jayesh Shah, past President of AAPI, introduced Consul General of India in Houston, Aseem Mahajan. In his address on "Indo-US Relationship In Healthcare -Rural Health Perspective" Ambassador Mahajan told the AAPI members: "You are true the heroes and partners with us, and you make us proud, especially during the critically vital Covid times." Urging the Diaspora to contribute towards strengthening of India's partnership with the US, Mr. Mahajan focused on India-US partnership on various health related issues, while stressing the many healthcare initiatives by the Government of India. "AAPI can play a big role in rural health, which has been a priority for the Government of India," he said. He thanked and appreciated the many Doctors, who are already doing similar noble initiatives, helping the rural communities have access to clean drinking water. "We can

work together, collaborating and sharing of knowledge and expertise, including Medical Education," he told AAPI.

Dr. Suresh Reddy, past President of AAPI and currently an elected Trustee of Oakbrook Village in Illinois, after introducing the Consul General of India in Chicago, Amit Kumar, announced that he is adopting his native village in the state of Telengana. In his address, Mr. Kumar spoke about "Rural Health In India, The Current Situation," and focused on technological areas in healthcare development in the rural parts of India. "Your activities and the message to spread awareness on Covid and for providing PPEs to India are highly appreciated," he told AAPI members, pointing to the fact that India has vaccinated over 600 million people and he hoped that India will offer vaccines to majority of India's vast population soon.

Introduced by Dr. Sudhakar Jonnalagadda, immediate past President of India, Consul General of India in Atlanta Dr. Swati Kulkarni focused on "How AAPI and Doctors can Help India." She said, "It's important and laudable that you have undertaken to help India during the 75th anniversary of India's Independence. Dr. Kulkarni shared her views on how AAPI and the government of India can collaborate in: Diplomacy for development, where "India needs overseas expertise, and you are best suited to offer," she said, while calling upon Indian American Doctors to be part of India's efforts to enhance the GDP. "India's healthcare industry is growing rapidly there is more scope for growth with expanded pharma industry and medical tourism. She stressed the need

UCL T20 Night Tournament Final Cricket match: Anjuman defeat Deccan Heroes



Mohammed Adil with invited chief guest, Anjuman and Deccan Heroes cricket team

CHICAGO (TIP): United Cricket League and Entertainment held its Night Tournament Closing Ceremony was on August 23, 2021 at Skokie Sports Park, 3459 Oakton St, Skokie, IL. 12 teams that participated are Anjuman, Chicago Indians, Cougars, Mavericks, American Eagles, Deccan Heroes, Deepark, Rogers Park, Gujju boys, Hawks, Kimball 11, and Maharishi CC.

The two teams that played in the final are Anjuman and Deccan Heroes. Anjuman won the toss and the Captain, Ayaz Patel decided to bat first. Deccan Heroes captain Jibrán led the team very well. Anjuman scored 206 runs and Deccan Heroes scored 115 runs. Anjuman won the final. Man of the Match was Ayaz Patel, and Man of the Series was Gul Khan.

The chief Guests included Masood Chik, former cricketer of Pakistan, Pramod Shah: Skokie Village Clerk, Jim McCarthy: Skokie Caucus Party Chairman, Susan Aberman: Skokie Park Board President, Mike Reid: Skokie Park Board Vice President. Mike Shah: Skokie Planning Commissioner, Robert DeLeonardis: Sports park supervisor, Syed Mustaq Hussain: main advisor, and Syed Sikander: advisor. Other guests were Mohammed Afroz, Mohammed



Anjuman Captain, Ayaz Patel receiving winning trophy

Anwar, Faheem Shehzad, Abdul Faheem, Mohammed Rafi, Sidiq Khan, Mohammed Yunus, Mukhram Mehmood, Ayaz Patel, Sufuyian Dukanwala, Syed Ehsan, and everyone who attended.

The empires were Syed Shabbir, and Hanif Lala. UCL&E would like to thank their sponsors which includes Pepsi,

PPG, Devon Discount Pharmacy, Sabri Nahari, NP Jewelers, Free Covid Care, AV Stone, Patel Brothers, Air Tour, Shalimar Banquet Hall, Little Ceaser Pizza, Noble Services, Lyca Mobile, and Okay Auto Repair.

(Photographs and Press release / Asian Media USA)

US committed to safe passage for last 100-200 Americans left in Afghanistan: Biden

WASHINGTON (TIP): The White House on Tuesday, August 31, said 98% of Americans who wanted to leave Afghanistan were able to do so, and President Joe Biden affirmed that the United States remained committed to helping the remaining 100 to 200 US citizens who had some intention to leave. Speaking at the White House, Biden told reporters that most of those people were dual citizens and longtime residents, who had earlier decided to stay in the country given their family roots in Afghanistan.

"For those remaining Americans there is no deadline. We remain committed to get them out if they want to come out," Biden said.

In his remarks, he noted that 90% of Americans who were in Afghanistan and wanted to leave were able to leave. The White House later updated a transcript of his remarks to show that the correct figure was 98%.

He told US Secretary of State Antony Blinken was leading continued diplomatic efforts to ensure safe passage for any American, Afghan partner or foreign national who wanted to leave Afghanistan after the August 15 takeover by the Islamist Taliban.

"The Taliban has made public commitments, broadcast on television and radio across Afghanistan, on safe passage for anyone wanting to leave, including those who worked alongside Americans," he said. "We don't take them by their word alone, but by their actions, and we have leverage to make sure those commitments are met."

Biden said the US government had reached out 19 times to Americans in Afghanistan since March, offering to help them leave the country.

After the US military-led evacuations began 17 days ago, US officials reached out again and identified around 5,000 Americans who had decided earlier to stay, but now wanted to leave, he said.

In the end, the President said, more than 5,500 Americans evacuated, along with thousands of citizens & diplomats from allied countries, as well as 2,500 locally employed staff at the US embassy and their families, and thousands of Afghan translators and interpreters and others who supported the United States.

COTND FROM PAGE 12

AAPI Launches Adopt-A-Village - A Rural Health Initiative in India

for AAPI's role in enhancing India-US political partnership, where AAPI is "a major stake holder," she said.

Dr. Mukesh Nigam introduced Consul General of India in New York, Randhir Jaiswal. In his address on "Rural Health in India: The Challenges and Solutions" Ambassador Jaiswal said, "This noble initiative by AAPI has become more meaningful especially during the 75th anniversary of India's Independence."

Reminding AAPI members of Modi's call to rebuild a new India, he said, "AAPI's initiative is even more meaningful and fits well into PM's vision for India." He said, "We applaud and thank AAPI for coming forward to help India, especially during the covid pandemic."

Dr. Sujeeth Punnam, a renowned cardiologist introduced Deputy Consul General of India in San Francisco, Rajesh Naik. While speaking on "Rural Health, What India can learn from Developed Nations" Mr. Naik said, "AAPI has provided tremendous support as India and Indian community were struggling with the challenges of Covid. You rose to the occasion and came forward to help and support, which have been highly

appreciated by the Diaspora." During the 2nd Covid surge, AAPI stepped forward and have sent out Millions of Dollars of medical supplies to Indi, he said. While pointing to the many challenges of healthcare in rural India, Mr. Naik urged how AAPI could offer tele medical consultation in rural India, especially focusing on the preventive aspect of health in India.

Dr. Anjana Samadder, Vice President of AAPI, said, "By adopting one village at a time and working with the government and NGOs, NRIs can make a huge difference in the lives of millions of people in India. Each project will involve a tripartite partnership between the NRI, state government and a local NGO."

Dr. Krishan Kumar, Treasurer of AAPI pointed out, "The cost for adopting a village depends on various factors, including the population of the villages, the services that are required and what one is willing to commit to for the welfare and progress of the village one is committing to adopt."

Dr. Lokesh Edara, chair for AAPI's global initiative, while focusing on international medicine and how India is lagging behind in medical care, while urging the Government of India, pointed to how India needs to focus on Post Graduate Medical professionals rather than having Doctors with undergraduate degree alone.

(Press Release issued by Ajay Ghosh)

Labor Day: A day for workers

Labor Day, falling on first Monday of September, is a Federal Holiday in the US

Labor Day pays tribute to the contributions and achievements of American workers and is traditionally observed on the first Monday in September. It was created by the labor movement in the late 19th century and became a federal holiday in 1894. Labor Day weekend also symbolizes the end of summer for many Americans, and is celebrated with parties, street parades and athletic events.

Labor Day, an annual celebration of workers and their achievements, originated during one of American labor history's most dismal chapters.

In the late 1800s, at the height of the Industrial Revolution in the United States, the average American worked 12-hour days and seven-day weeks in order to eke out a basic living. Despite restrictions in some states, children as young as 5 or 6 toiled in mills, factories and mines across the country, earning a fraction of their adult counterparts' wages.

People of all ages, particularly the very poor and recent immigrants, often faced extremely unsafe working conditions, with insufficient access to fresh air, sanitary facilities and breaks.

As manufacturing increasingly supplanted agriculture as the wellspring of American employment, labor unions, which had first appeared in the late 18th century, grew more prominent and vocal. They began organizing strikes and rallies to protest poor conditions and compel employers to renegotiate hours and pay.

Many of these events turned violent during this period, including the infamous Haymarket Riot of 1886, in which several Chicago policemen and workers were killed. Others gave rise to longstanding traditions: On September 5, 1882, 10,000 workers took unpaid time off to march from City Hall to Union Square in New York City, holding the first Labor Day parade in U.S. history.

The idea of a "workingmen's holiday," celebrated on the first Monday in September, caught on in other industrial centers across the country, and many states passed legislation recognizing it. Congress would not legalize the holiday until 12 years later, when a watershed moment in American labor history brought workers' rights squarely into the public's view. On May 11, 1894, employees of the Pullman Palace Car Company in Chicago went on strike to protest wage cuts and the firing of union representatives.

On June 26, the American Railroad Union, led by Eugene V. Debs, called for a boycott of all Pullman railway cars, crippling railroad traffic nationwide. To break the Pullman strike, the federal government dispatched troops to Chicago, unleashing a wave of riots that resulted in the deaths of more than a dozen workers.

Who Created Labor Day?

In the wake of this massive unrest and in an attempt to repair ties with American workers, Congress passed an



act making Labor Day a legal holiday in the District of Columbia and the territories. On June 28, 1894, President Grover Cleveland signed it into law. More than a century later, the true founder of Labor Day has yet to be identified.

Many credit Peter J. McGuire, cofounder of the American Federation of Labor, while others have suggested that Matthew Maguire, a secretary of the Central Labor Union, first proposed the holiday.

Labor Day Celebrations

Labor Day is still celebrated in cities and towns across the United States with parades, picnics, barbecues, fireworks displays and other public gatherings. For many Americans, particularly children and young adults, it represents the end of the summer and the start of the back-to-school season.

A Nationwide Holiday

Many Americans celebrate Labor Day with parades, picnics and parties – festivities very similar to those outlined by the first proposal for a holiday, which suggested that the day should be observed with – a street parade to exhibit "the strength and esprit de corps of the trade and labor organizations" of the community, followed by a festival for the recreation and amusement of the workers and their families. This became the pattern for the celebrations of Labor Day.

Speeches by prominent men and women were introduced later, as more emphasis was placed upon the economic and civic significance of the



holiday. Still later, by a resolution of the American Federation of Labor convention of 1909, the Sunday preceding Labor Day was adopted as Labor Sunday and dedicated to the spiritual and educational aspects of the labor movement.

American labor has raised the nation's standard of living and contributed to the greatest production the world has ever known and the labor movement has brought us closer to the realization of our traditional ideals of economic and political democracy. It is appropriate, therefore, that the nation pays tribute on Labor Day to the creator of so much of the nation's strength, freedom, and leadership – the American worker.



India in history this Week

SEPTEMBER 3 TO SEPTEMBER 9, 2021

September 3

1923 Country's tabla player Pandit Kishan Maharaj was born.



1906 India's famous film actor Prithviraj Kapoor was born in Peshawar (now Pakistan).

1940 Famous composer of Hindi cinema Pyarelal was born.

2014 More than 200 people died due to floods in India and neighboring Pakistan.

2008 In 2008, Rajendra Kumar Pachauri was re-elected head of the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), a United Nations organization.

September 4

1825 India's great freedom fighter Dada Bhai Naoroji was born in Mumbai. He is also called the "Grandfather of Indian Politics".



1952 India's famous actor Rishi Kapoor was born.

1665 Purandar was signed between the Maratha ruler Shivaji and the Mughals.

1927 The riots in Nagpur killed 22 people and injured over 100.

1946 In Bombay, street violence erupted between Muslims and Hindus.

1967 More than 200 people died as the 6.5-magnitude earthquake hit the Kayna Dam in Maharashtra.

2009 Gujarat High Court lifts ban on Aswant Singh's book written on Muhammad Ali Jinnah in Gujarat.

1888 Mahatma Gandhi embarked on a voyage to England.

2008 The Mayawati government decided to withdraw the Uttar Pradesh Organized Crime Act (UPCOA) Bill-2007 with immediate effect.

2009 Coal Company SCCL was awarded the Autonomy of Mini Ratna Company.

2012 Girish Hosangara Nagaraje Gowda gave India the first medal at the Paralympic Games.

September 5

1888 Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan was born.

1997 Founder of Missionary of Charity and Nobel Prize winner Mother Teresa died in Kolkata.

2009 The National Stock Exchange banned ten companies from trading in the stock market.

2011 The technical system of clearing checks through ATMs prepared by the Indian Banks' Association and the National Payments Corporation of

India was finalized.

1872 Chidambaram Pillai, a Tamil-language scholar and noted social reformer, was born.

1905 The famous novelist Vachaspati Pathak was born.

2008 A delegation of the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) led by Ratan Tata called on Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

September 6

1929 Birth of filmmaker Yash Johar.

1965 The Indian Army crossed the border from three places and attacked West Pakistan.



1972 Ustad Alaaddin Khan, a veteran of Hindustani classical music, was born.

2018 The Supreme Court declared that homosexuality is no longer a crime.

2008 D. Subbarao took over as the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India.

1838 Dalip Singh, the youngest son of Maharaj Ranjit Singh of Punjab, was born.

1889 Freedom fighter Sharat Chandra Bose was born.

September 7

1882 Bankim Chandra Chatterjee composed the national anthem "Vande Mataram" in Kantal Pada village in Bengal. Vande Mataram became the national slogan in the Bang Bhang movement.

1963 Ashok Chakra winner Indian Airhostess (Air Hostess) Neerja Bhanot was born.



1906 Bank of India was established.

1965 China announced that it would strengthen its troops stationed on the Indian border.

2008 NSG under Indo-US nuclear agreement 45 members of the India gave exemption from the international fraternity to nuclear trade.

2009 Pankaj Advani of India won the World Professional Billiards Championship.

2011 A 4.2 magnitude earthquake lasting 6.2 seconds on the Richter scale occurred at 11:24 pm in Delhi, whose center was located in Sonipat, Haryana.

2011 11 people were killed and 74 were injured when a bomb exploded in a suitcase near Gate No-5 of Delhi High Court premises.

1887 Sanskrit scholar and great philosopher

Gopinath Kaviraj was born on 7 September

1917 Indian medical scientist and family planning specialist Bano Jahangir Koyaji was born on 7 September.

2055 An investigation report of the Oil-for-Food Program was presented.

2008 Astronomers were able to see clearly inside the giant blackhole in the middle of our sky Ganges.

September 8

1926 Bhupendra Hazarika was born.

1933 Asha Bhosle, who has sung more than 12 thousand songs in 20 languages, was born today.

1320 Ghazi Malik (Gaiasudin Tughlaq) became the Sultan of Delhi.

1962 China infiltrated India's eastern border.

1965 India opened 2 additional fronts against Pakistan.

1966 UNESCO celebrated World Literacy Day for the first time by the United Nations Department of Education and Cultural.

2006 Serial blasts took place in Malegaon, Maharashtra, in which around 37 people were killed and more than 100 people were injured.

1966 To make people aware of education, UNESCO started celebrating "Literacy Day".

1967 For the first time since independence, the party which was running the government at the Center faced defeat in the Lok Sabha elections.

2000 Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee slammed Pakistan during a speech in Hindi during the United Nations Peace Summit.

2008 The Supreme Court granted bail to the main accused and share broker Ketan Parikh and other accused in the Canfina Mutual Fund scam case.

2009 India gave \$ 10 million to Russia to prepare the aircraft carrier Admiral Gorshkov by installing new parts.

1910 Radhakrishna, the celebrated storyteller of Hindi, was born.

September 9

2012 The Indian Space Agency placed the heaviest foreign satellite in orbit.

1974 Captain Vikram Batra, who was martyred in Kargil war, was born on 9 September. He was



posthumously awarded the Param Vir Chakra.

1949 Hindi was adopted as the national language in India.

1915 The struggle between the famous Indian revolutionary Jatindranath Sanyal and the British at Kaptewara in Orissa.

1920 Aligarh's Oriental College was converted into Aligarh Muslim University.

1999 Mahesh Bhupathi of India and Arch Sugiyama of Japan won the mixed doubles title of US Open.

2009 Ministry of Railways announced to introduce biometric identification system for its employees on the lines of Ministry of Home Affairs

1907 Director Mahbub Khan, the leading producer of Indian cinema history, was born.



Former Rajya Sabha MP and senior journalist Chandan Mitra passes away

Former Rajya Sabha MP and senior journalist Chandan Mitra passed away late last night in Delhi, confirmed his son Kushan Mitra. He was 65.

Mitra was a nominated member of the Rajya Sabha from August 2003 to 2009. In June 2010, BJP got him elected to the upper house from Madhya Pradesh. His term ended in 2016. He was a close aide of party veteran L K Advani, but was sidelined by the Narendra Modi-Amit Shah leadership.

In July 2018, Mitra, Editor and Managing Director of The Pioneer, resigned from the BJP and joined the Trinamool Congress (TMC).

Prime Minister Narendra Modi took to Twitter to condole Mitra's demise. "Shri Chandan Mitra Ji will be remembered for his intellect and insights. He distinguished himself in the world of media as well as politics. Anguished by his demise. Condolences to his family and admirers. Om Shanti," the prime minister tweeted.

Senior BJP leader Ram Madhav also expressed his condolences: "Very sorry to hear about the demise of former MP and senior journalist Sh Chandan Mitra. He was a good friend. Served on the India Foundation Board for many years until his health forced him to withdraw from public activism. Condolences to @kushanmitra and other near and dear. Om Shanti."

India to participate in military exercise in Russia; Pakistan, China observers

A 200-strong Indian Army contingent will participate in a multi-nation military exercise in Russia from September 3 to September 16. 'Exercise ZAPAD 2021' will see the participation of a dozen nations, including Pakistan and China, who are participating as observers.

In a statement, the Army said that ZAPAD 2021 is "one of the theatre level exercises of the Russian Armed Forces and will focus primarily on operations against terrorists". The statement mentioned that over a dozen countries from the Eurasian and south Asian regions will participate.

A group of the Naga Battalion will participate, the Army said, adding that it will feature an all-arms combined task force. "The exercise aims to enhance military and strategic ties amongst the participating nations..."

India's primary concern is use of Afghan soil for terrorism, says MEA

NEW DELHI (TIP): India's main concern in Afghanistan is the use of Afghan soil for terrorism or anti-India activities and it is too early to talk of issues such as any possible recognition of the Taliban regime, the external affairs ministry said on Thursday, Sept 2.

New Delhi's position was outlined by external affairs ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi two days after the first officially acknowledged meeting between the Indian side and the Taliban in Doha. India is also focused on the evacuation of its nationals who are still in Afghanistan, he said.

Tuesday's meeting between India's envoy to Qatar, Deepak Mittal, and Sher Mohammed Abbas Stanekzai, head of the Taliban's political office in Doha, has given rise to questions on whether New Delhi has softened its position on the Taliban and could be considering the recognition of any new set-up created by the group in Kabul.

At a regular news briefing, Bagchi ducked all questions on whether India still perceives the Taliban as a terror group and on recognising any government formed by the group, and said: "Our main concern, one of the primary, immediate concerns is that Afghan soil should not be used for anti-Indian activities or terrorism against India. That is one of our main issues."

India's focus is not on whether the Taliban is a terror organisation, and



"the focus, let me reiterate, is that Afghan soil should not be used for terrorist activities of any kind or [for] anti-India activities and we will try to focus on that element", Bagchi said.

The Indian side has seen reports about formation of a government by the Taliban, but has no details regarding the nature of this dispensation, Bagchi said. He said there was "no update" on any invitation being extended to India to participate in the inauguration of such a government.

Setting aside questions about recognising a Taliban government, he said, "Let's just treat the Doha meeting for what it is - it is just a meeting and I think these are still very early days."

India used the meeting in Doha as an opportunity to convey its concerns,

including evacuation of its nationals and terrorism, and "received a positive response" from the Taliban side, he added.

In response to a question on why the Taliban hadn't publicly acknowledged the Doha meeting, which was held at the group's request, and why there were no photographs of the interaction, Bagchi said: "I think it just didn't happen, it's just a meeting, it wasn't really that kind of an event where photos are taken. I don't think there's any thought behind it [that] we don't have a photo of it. I think neither side took a photo."

Bagchi side-stepped a query on whether India has a roadmap for further engagements with the Taliban by saying: "We wouldn't have done anything without giving it some thought. Let's see how things move."

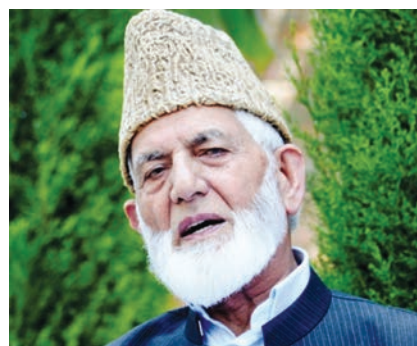
Separatist patriarch, firm pro-Pak hawk on Kashmir, Syed Ali Shah Geelani dies

The patriarch of separatist politics in the Valley and hardline Hurriyat hawk, Syed Ali Shah Geelani, passed away at his residence in Srinagar late Wednesday, Sept 1, night.

A former elected legislator, the ailing 92-year-old had been under house detention for more than a decade. His death comes when both his and the moderate factions of the Hurriyat are in disarray in the wake of a crackdown by the National Investigation Agency (NIA), the abrogation of Article 370 and the downgrade of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories.

Apprehensive that his funeral may attract large crowds, the security establishment has imposed restrictions across the Valley, including Internet suspension. Police sources say curfew would be imposed.

"With shock and grief, we inform



(you) that the father of revolution Syed Ali Geelani passed away tonight," tweeted Geelani's Pakistan-based representative Abdullah Geelani. "As per his will, he would be buried at the martyrs' cemetery in Srinagar. The timing of the funeral would be announced later."

However, it is unlikely that the government will allow Geelani to be buried at this cemetery.

Geelani's legacy will be that of the

hardliner who stood up to New Delhi, seeking resolution of the Kashmir dispute under the aegis of the United Nations. In fact, he was the only separatist leader to oppose Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf when the latter climbed down on Islamabad's traditional stand on Kashmir and proposed a four-point formula to resolve the Kashmir issue.

Born on September 29, 1929, at Zurmanz, a village on the banks of the Wular lake in Bandipore, Geelani rose to become the face of separatist politics.

A school teacher, he started his political career under the tutelage of Maulana Mohammad Sayeed Masoodi, a senior National Conference (NC) leader, but soon moved to Jamat-e-Islami. The socio-religious organisation stood up to the NC leadership and saw Kashmir as an "unfinished agenda" of Partition.



Bigg Boss 13 winner Sidharth Shukla dies of heart attack at 40

Bigg Boss 13 winner Sidharth Shukla died of a sudden heart attack on September 2 at Cooper Hospital, Mumbai has confirmed his death. He was 40. Hospital sources said he took some medicine before sleeping and didn't wake up. Later, the hospital confirmed that he passed away due to a heart attack. The postmortem is on at Cooper Hospital and the body will be discharged soon. He is survived by his mother and two sisters.

Sidharth Shukla died of a heart attack at the age of 40. He was brought dead to the hospital by his brother-in-law and his relatives were also there. Confirming the same a senior official from Cooper Hospital told PTI, "He was brought dead to the hospital some time ago."

No injuries were sustained on the body of actor Sidharth Shukla. The cause of the death is yet to be ascertained. A team of police is present at the Shukla's residence for investigation, Mumbai Police sources told India Today.

Rs1.5 Lakh Crore UPA-Era Oil Bonds Need To Be Repaid: Hardeep Puri

Amid fuel prices continuing to remain stubbornly high despite international rates falling, Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Thursday said over Rs 1.5 lakh crore of oil bonds issued by the previous UPA government remains to be paid, limiting fiscal space and restricting financial freedom of oil firms.

A day after Congress leader Rahul Gandhi launched a scathing attack on the government for raising cooking gas prices, Mr Puri took to Twitter to blame the "rampant impunity and policy paralysis" of the UPA government.

"In 'India's Lost Decade' known for rampant impunity & policy paralysis, UPA Govt saddled future govts with Oil Bonds. More than Rs 1.5 lakh cr of these remain to be repaid, thus tying up crucial resources, limiting fiscal space & restricting financial freedom of OMCs," he tweeted.

Only fully vaccinated people should gather, says govt as daily Covid cases at 2-month high

NEW DELHI (TIP): As daily new cases rose to a two-month high of 47,092 on Thursday, Sept 2, with Kerala alone accounting for 69 per cent of new cases last week, the government warned people against mass festive gatherings saying the second wave of the pandemic was not yet over.

Indian Council of Medical Research chief Balram Bhargava went to the extent of saying that while mass gatherings need to be absolutely avoided at the moment, only fully inoculated people must gather if meeting is critical.

"Mass gatherings must be discouraged. Full vaccination should be a must if holding a gathering of necessary," Bhargava said, with the Member Health NITI Aayog VK Paul asking people to celebrate upcoming festivals with families only.

Describing the threat of mutants (WHO classified a new variant of interest Mu on Wednesday) as real, Paul said mutations can devastate health systems leading to loss of current gains.

"There is no systematic strategy to deal with this expect protections of behaviour and through vaccination," the expert said.

The government, meanwhile, informed that it has expanded the basket of nations for stringent Covid controls on international travellers arriving here.

So far passengers travelling from the UK, EU and the Middle East were required to have an RTPCR negative report before taking a flight and then get a mandatory RTPCR test upon arrival in India.

"In the light of risk of mutations, we have added to the list of UK, EU and Middle East more countries including South Africa, Bangladesh, Botswana, China, Mauritius, New Zealand and Zimbabwe. International travellers from all these countries would now need RTPCR



negative reports to get on flights to India and RTPCR testing upon arrival here," Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said.

The government said 39 districts (in Kerala and Northeast) had over 10 per cent Covid positivity as of today and 38 had positivity rate of 5 to 10 per cent.

"Districts with over ten pc positivity need urgent containment measures. In districts with 5 to 10 per cent positivity, states must ensure surveillance," the Health Secretary said.

The government also hailed Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Dadra and Nagar Haveli for covering full adult population with the first dose.

Himachal has given the second dose to 32 pc adults, Sikkim to 36 per cent.

Overall, 54 per cent of India's 94 crore adults have received the first dose as of today and 16 per cent has received both doses. Government said vaccine pace was picking up with 80.27 lakh plus doses administered on the last seven days of August.

Overall in August India administered 18.38 crore doses with cumulative doses now reaching over 64 crore which is more than the population of many nations.

Source: TNS

Section of media gives communal colour to news bringing bad name to nation, says Supreme Court

NEW DELHI (TIP): A section of media gives communal colour to news bringing bad name to the country, the Supreme Court ruled on Thursday, Sept 2, expressing serious concern over fake news on social media, including web portals and YouTube, which listen only to "the powerful voices" and not judges and institutions.

The strong observations of the bench headed by Chief Justice NV Ramana came while hearing a batch of petitions, including the one filed by Jamiat Ulema-i-Hind, seeking directions to the Centre to stop dissemination of "fake news" related to last year's religious gathering at Nizamuddin Markaz and take strict action against those responsible for it.

"The problem is, everything in this country is shown with a communal angle by a section of media. The country is going to get a bad name ultimately," said the bench, adding, "Did you (the Centre) ever attempt to regulate these private channels?"

The bench also agreed to hear after six weeks the Centre's plea seeking transfer of petitions to the apex court that are pending in high courts against the validity of new Information Technology Rules which aim to regulate online content.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, said, "Not only communal but also planted news" is there and the IT Rules had been framed to regulate content online, including web portals.

Source: PTI

Amid fear of new Covid strains, RT-PCR test compulsory for those arriving from 7 more nations

NEW DELHI (TIP): Amid fear of new Covid-19 strains, RT-PCR test is compulsory for passengers arriving from seven more countries, including South Africa, Bangladesh and China, the Centre said on Thursday, Sept 2.

In a letter to all states and Union territories (UTs), the government said considering reports of new mutations in SARS-CoV-2 and rising number of Variants of Concern (VOCs) and Variants of Interest (Vols) globally, seven countries have been added in the list of countries whose travellers will have to get another RT-PCR test done upon landing at Indian airports apart from the one they need to get before embarking on the flight.

These seven countries are South Africa, Bangladesh, Botswana, China, Mauritius, New Zealand and Zimbabwe.

In earlier guidelines issued in February, passengers from only the United Kingdom, Europe and the Middle East had to get the RT-PCR test done again upon landing at Indian airports.

The Centre also asked states/UTs to ensure strict compliance to these guidelines so that the import of Vols and VoCs to India from other countries may be prevented.

"The states/UTs must also strengthen their Whole Genome



Sequencing (WGS) activities being coordinated through the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Consortium on Genomics (INSACOG) network of laboratories, by sending a fixed percentage of samples of positive cases among international travellers for genome sequencing to the respective INSACOG Genome Sequencing Laboratories tagged with them," Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said in the letter.

Ragamala Trio usher in New Season

BY MABEL PAIS



Ranee Ramaswamy
Photo / Grant Halverson



Aparna Ramaswamy
Photo / Dariel Sneed



Ashwini Ramaswamy
Photo / David Johnston.

The Ragamala Dance Company (founded under the leadership of Ranee Ramaswamy and Aparna Ramaswamy (mother-daughter duo) announces its 2021-22 season, featuring the world premiere of "Fires of Varanasi: Dance of the Eternal Pilgrim," performances of choreographer-associate (daughter of Ranee Ramaswamy) Ashwini Ramaswamy's "Let the Crows Come," podcast episodes, and panel appearances. The Company will tour the country through April 2022 and will conclude the season with a residency at the Bogliasco Foundation in Bogliasco, Italy.

Ranee and Aparna Ramaswamy's award-winning, internationally recognized Bharatanatyam dance ensemble will perform the world premiere of the Kennedy Center co-commission "Fires of Varanasi" on the REACH campus from September 11-12 as part of the Center's 50th Anniversary weekends and Millennium Stage Summer Series, before bringing the piece to The Hopkins Center for the Arts at Dartmouth College on September 17-18 and The Joyce Theater in Manhattan from September 22-26.

The performances have been hailed as "soulful, imaginative and rhythmically contagious... every gesture radiates joy or generosity or a sense of striving toward some higher form of being," by The New York Times.

Rooted in the expansive South Indian dance form of Bharatanatyam, Ragamala Dance Company manifests a kindred relationship between the ancient and the contemporary. In their latest evening-length performance, "Fires of Varanasi: Dance of the Eternal Pilgrim," eleven dancers conjure a realm where time is

suspended and humans merge with the divine. Award-winning creators Ranee Ramaswamy and Aparna Ramaswamy imagine a metaphorical crossing place that enters into a ritualistic world of immortality, evoking the birth-death-rebirth continuum in Hindu thought to honor immigrant experiences of life and death in the diaspora. The work features an original, recorded score and the lighting designs

of French scenic and lighting designer Willy Cessa.

Evoking mythology and ancestry, Ashwini Ramaswamy's "Let the Crows Come" uses the metaphor of crows as messengers for the living and guides for the departed. This 60-minute work for three dancers with live music explores how memory and homeland channel guidance and dislocation. Featuring Ramaswamy (Bharatanatyam technique), Alanna Morris-Van Tassel (Contemporary/Afro-Caribbean Diasporic technique), and Berit Ahlgren (Gaga technique), Bharatanatyam dance is deconstructed and recontextualized to recall a memory that has a shared origin but is remembered differently from person to person. Composers Jace Clayton (DJ Rupture) and Brent Arnold extrapolate from Prema Ramamurthy's original Carnatic (South Indian) score, utilizing centuries-old compositional structures as the point of departure for their sonic explorations.

2021/2022 SEASON SCHEDULE:

"Returning to the Earth" (Virtual event)

Pre-filmed online performance and panel discussion as part of the Just Festival in Edinburgh

August 25, 2021 at 1:30PM ET, Edinburgh, Scotland



"Fires of Varanasi," Logo - Photo / Ed Bock

World premiere of "Fires of Varanasi"

September 11 and 12, 2021 at 7:30 PM, the Kennedy Center, Washington, D.C. (Rain Date: September 13 at 7:30 PM)

"Fires of Varanasi" (proscenium

stage premiere)

September 17 at 7:30 PM and 18 at 2 & 7:30 PM ET, Hopkins Center for the Arts at Dartmouth College, New Hampshire

"Fires of Varanasi" (New York premiere)

September 22-26, 2021, The Joyce Theater

For Tickets, visit joyce.org/performances/ragamala-dance-company

"Let the Crows Come"

October 2, 2021, Bryn Mawr College Performing Arts Series in Pennsylvania

For Tickets, visit brynmawr.edu/performing-arts-series/ramaswamy

"Let the Crows Come"

November 20 and 21, 2021, Cowles Center in Minneapolis

"Fires of Varanasi"

December 2, 2021 at 7:30PM, Harris Theater, Chicago, IL

For Tickets, visit harristheaterchicago.org/tickets/2021-2022-season/fires-of-varanasi

"Subcontinuity: Voices from the South Asian Diaspora" podcast launches via PRX

January 2022

"Let the Crows Come"

January 15, 2022 at 8PM, Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts, Scottsdale, AZ

For Tickets, visit scottsdaleperformingarts.org/event/ashwini-ramaswamy-let-the-crows-come

Release of second

"Subcontinuity" podcast episode

February 2022

Ashwini Ramaswamy's work-in-process work "Invisible Cities" Panel discussion and Artist Q&A

January 31, 2022

"Fires of Varanasi"

February 26, 2022, Northrop in Minneapolis

For Tickets, visit northrop.umn.edu/events/ragamala-

dance-company-2022

"Fires of Varanasi"

April 9, 2022, The Soraya in North Ridge, CA

Ramaswamys in residence

April 19-May 20, 2022, The Bogliasco Foundation in Bogliasco, Italy

The Ragamala Dance Company

The Ragamala Dance Company was founded in 1992 by Ranee Ramaswamy and is under the leadership of Artistic Directors Ranee Ramaswamy and Aparna Ramaswamy, and Choreographic Associate Ashwini Ramaswamy (mother and daughters). Rooted in the South Indian dance form of Bharatanatyam, the company has been hailed by 'The New York Times' as "rapturous and profound."

Driven by the artistic vision of Ranee and Aparna, Ragamala Dance Company is the embodiment of an immigrant story. The company's work - on stage, in the community, and educating the next generation - exemplifies the intercultural narratives of countless global citizens and evokes a shared sense of humanity.

Ragamala engages in a collaborative practice rooted in the idea of Bharatanatyam as a sacred and dynamic living tradition. They embody the kindred relationship between ancient and contemporary that is urgently needed in today's world. Ranee and Aparna's training under legendary artist Alarmel Valli forms the bedrock of a creative aesthetic that springs from beauty, truth, and spirit. Ragamala is a pioneering, woman-led, intergenerational, family-run organization committed to the idea that while history is time bound, the stories we share are timeless.

For more information, visit ragamaladance.org.

(Mabel Pais writes on Social Issues, The Arts and Entertainment, Spirituality, and Health & Wellness)

FILMS ON DVD BY MABEL PAIS

SUMMER OF 85

DIR: François Ozon | 2020 | France | French w/Eng Subs | Color | NR | 1h 40m



Summer of 85 - Photo / Music Box Films

"SUMMER OF 85," from one of France's most prolific and versatile

filmmakers, François Ozon, is a wonderful and ardent reverie on first love and the impassioned influence it holds over those who experience it. It's based on the landmark 1982 LGBT young adult novel "Dance on My Grave" by British author Aidan Chambers. Available on VOD (iTunes, Amazon Instant, Vudu and YouTube), DVD and Blu-ray with bonus features.

View the trailer: youtu.be/bwsKhFw1iPQ
For more information, visit summerof85film.com

THE PERFECT CANDIDATE

DIR: Haifaa Al Mansour | 2020 | Germany, Saudi Arabia | Arabic w/Eng subs | Color | NR | 1h 45m

"a candid, often wryly amusing

glimpse of life inside the Saudi kingdom"--Ann Hornaday, The Washington Post



Perfect Candidate - Photo / Music Box Films

In "THE PERFECT CANDIDATE," acclaimed Saudi Arabian filmmaker Haifaa Al Mansour offers a revealing look at the changing roles of women in Saudi Arabia with her latest film. When Maryam, a hardworking young doctor in a small-town clinic, is prevented from

flying to Dubai for a conference without a male guardian's approval, she seeks help from a politically connected cousin but inadvertently registers as a candidate for the municipal council. Maryam sees the election as a way to fix the muddy road in front of her clinic, but her campaign slowly garners broader appeal. Maryam's creative and ambitious campaign builds momentum, becoming a symbol for a larger movement.

Available on all major digital platforms (AppleTV, Amazon, GooglePlay, Vudu, YouTube, Music Box Direct and more) and DVD with special bonus features.

View the trailer: youtu.be/N8_W06eSm-I

To learn more, visit musicboxfilms.com/film/the-perfect-candidate

UPCOMING RELEASES BY MABEL PAIS

PBS-POV SHORTS

POV Shorts, the newest series from American Documentary, debuts its fourth season on Monday, September 6, 2021, on PBS and streaming online at POV.org.

POV Shorts will have Broadcast & Streaming Debut of 4th Season on PBS this Monday, Sept. 6 with Three Acclaimed Documentaries Including (Likely Oscar Contender) "A Broken House," "Sing Me a Lullaby," and "Joychild."

EPISODE 1: Where I'm From: Stories on home and how it shapes us.

Broadcast Date: This Monday, September 6, 2021

"A BROKEN HOUSE" - DIR: Jimmy Goldblum

Mohamad Hafez received a one-way ticket to the United States. Missing his homeland, he decided to create a stand-in. A story of love, loss and creating pathways home.

"SING ME A LULLABY" - DIR: Tiffany Hsiung

Spanning 14 years and two continents, a daughter searches for her mother's birth parents in Taiwan, unraveling complex tensions between love and sacrifice. For the Trailer and more info, visit singmealullabyfilm.com.

"JOYCHILD" - DIR: Aurora Brachman

A young child tells their mother "I'm not a girl" for the first time.

FINAL FREQUENCY

DIR: Tim Lowry | 2021 | USA | 1h 31m

AWARDED THE TESLA SPIRIT AWARD GOLD MEDAL FROM THE TESLA SCIENCE FOUNDATION

In "FINAL FREQUENCY," PhD student Esther connects unusual tremors in L.A. to rogue scientists, who are desperately seeking Nikola Tesla's lost notebook. If captured, Tesla's deadly research will enhance the destructive power of their master plan to manipulate thoughts and to manufacture an epic earthquake to take out world leaders during the G-20 World Economic Summit. The key is the professor, who has vanished along with the notebook. Esther and her crew of misfits are the only hope to find him before the G-20 is reduced to ashes and rubble. Watch the trailer - youtu.be/bwsKhFw1iPQ

Available on VOD (VUDU, prime video, Apple TV)

THE BIG SCARY "S" WORD

DIR: Yael Bridge | 2020 | USA | Doc | Eng | 1h 25m



The Big Scary "S" Word - Photo / Greenwich Entertainment

"Yael Bridge's 'The Big Scary 'S' Word' provides a persuasive analysis of the topic, as well as considerable argument for the notion that the basic principles of socialism are (as one interviewee here puts it) "as American as apple pie'."

- Dennis Harvey, 'Variety'

"The Big Scary "S" Word," featuring new and archival interviews with Bernie Sanders, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Cornel West, and Naomi Klein, explores the rich history of the American socialist movement. Weaving together hidden episodes of history and verité footage, the film shows that, contrary to popular belief, socialism is in fact deeply American and led to popular government programs such as public schools and Medicare. Activists and journalists explain how the 2008 financial crisis, the Wall Street bailout, the Occupy Movement, and the ascension of politicians like Sanders and Ocasio-Cortez have pushed a new generation to embrace the language of socialism.

Watch the trailer: youtu.be/7yL9a6JwrUY

In Theaters Nationwide & On Demand Everywhere Labor Day Weekend September 3

SAVING PARADISE

DIR: Jay Silverman | 2021 | USA

"SAVING PARADISE" is an inspiring story based on true events. A ruthless corporate raider is forced to return to his small-town roots where he suddenly inherits his father's nearly bankrupt pencil factory, which is the heart and soul of the depressed community. With the foreclosure deadline looming, he must decide to either let it close, or join the community's fight to save it.

Watch the trailer - youtu.be/2VYA3cg9V-Y

Opening in Select Theaters and On Demand Everywhere on September 3

BEING JAMES BOND

"Being James Bond," from Metro Goldwyn Mayer (MGM), will be exclusively available to stream on the Apple TV app as a free rental ahead of the theatrical release of the upcoming 25th film in the James Bond franchise, "No Time To Die." * In this special 45-minute retrospective, Daniel Craig candidly reflects on his 15-year adventure as James Bond. Customers in over 30 countries and regions around the globe can rent the film for free and stream it exclusively on the Apple TV app from September 7 to October 7.

Including never-before-seen archival footage from "Casino Royale" to the upcoming 25th film "No Time To Die," Craig shares his personal memories in conversation with 007 producers, Michael G Wilson and Barbara Broccoli, in the lead up to his final performance as James Bond.

"A lot of people here have worked on five pictures with me," Craig noted during the conversation with the films' producers in "Being James Bond." "I've loved every single second of these movies, and especially this one because I've got up every morning and I've had the chance to work with you guys, and that has been one of the greatest honors of my life."

Said Broccoli in the film: "Daniel has just taken this, the character, the series, the whole thing, to a place that is so...extraordinary. And so emotionally satisfying." "It's also emotionally tough being Daniel's last one. It's tough on Barbara, it's tough on me," added Wilson.

*Renting movies on the Apple TV app requires an Apple ID.

(Mabel Pais writes on The Arts and Entertainment, Social Issues, Spirituality, and Health & Wellness)



Saving Paradise Photo / Vertical Entertainment



Alia Bhatt stuns in new sun-kissed photos

Trust Alia Bhatt to not just treat fans to stunning pictures but also share a life lesson along the way. In her recent post, the Raazi actor seems to be on the go when she halted to take some beautiful pictures. She captioned the photos, "We learn the way, on the way," and added, "we also must take some pictures while we do so."

Alia looked breathtaking in the photos as she enjoyed the sunshine. Dressed in a pink one-shouldered crop top and boyfriend jeans, the actor smiled candidly as the camera captured her.

While she did not reveal the location details, the pictures are gorgeously green. Alia was recently spotted at the Mumbai airport, and seems like she has taken off for a serene break from the bustle of the city.

Mommie Soni Razdan agreed to Alia's caption as she replied on her daughter's post, "Couldn't agree more." Her Gully Boy co-star Ranveer Singh also showered love on her post, as he replied with multiple heart emojis.

If you aren't on your toes, someone else will grab your position: Emraan Hashmi

Bollywood star Emraan Hashmi says it is crucial for actors to constantly strive to do better as complacency can get them out of the race in the highly competitive film industry.

Hashmi, who has been in Bollywood since the early 2000s, said he has been able to do diverse work because he recognised early that only love for his craft could sustain him in the long run.

"Actors, generally, are insecure. Those who say they are not are lying. If you are not going to be on your toes, you won't be around. Someone else standing in that line, a newcomer or a peer, will grab it from you. It is that quest and struggle," Hashmi told PTI.

According to the actor, seeking fame is not the right thing to do as one should be passionate about their craft.

"It is not so much the fear of anonymity, that should never be the case. Being famous is just a byproduct of what you do. Seeking fame isn't the right thing to do, there has to be an inherent love for films and the filmmaking process. That's what I love, which is why I will never be complacent," Hashmi added.

The first half of Emraan Hashmi's career in the 2000s was dominated by commercial hits like Gangster, Jannat and Once Upon a Time In Mumbai, while in the last decade he switched to dramas like Dibakar Banerjee's Shanghai, dark comedy Ghanchakkar and made his digital debut with Netflix



series Bard of Blood in 2019.

The 42-year-old actor said he aims to put himself in challenging situations, seeking roles that will "shake" him off of his comfort zone.

"The day I feel that this is giving me the feeling of been there, done that, I will kick myself, to get up and do something that scares me. I have been part of that rut where I have done films that felt like a "been there, done that" situation and it is not fun. You should constantly try to do films that scare you."

Hashmi, however, is aware that getting projects which will push him as

an actor are not easy as "luck" plays a huge role in finding the right story.

"When something is successful, people want to replicate that. Producers have a different way of looking at things, they factor in economics and I don't blame them. But as a creative person, you have to walk that fine line and maintain that balance," he added.

Emraan Hashmi is currently seen in the thriller Chehre, which released theatrically last week. Hashmi will also be seen in the remake of the hit Malayalam film Ezra, which the actor said is most likely to release in October.

Priyanka Chopra on returning to work: 'I cried on the plane, I was terrified'

Priyanka Chopra Jonas sure is a busy woman. Work wise, she has a lot on her plate. In fact, as soon as the world started to open up a little after the second wave of the pandemic, the global icon was on her way back to work. But that did not mean that she was not terrified.

Speaking to Vogue India in a recent interview, the superstar confessed that she was nervous about returning to work after feeling safe with her family by side in the months they were 'locked down' together.

"I spent six months at home feeling really safe with my family, and then Germany was the first time I left to go work. I cried on the plane. I was terrified." However, husband and singer Nick Jonas' presence helped her calm down. The actor added, "He, my mum, my family came with me and we spent Christmas and New Year's together while I was filming. It was really nice to not have to come back to an empty home. Nick wanted to help me settle in."

In the same interview, Priyanka also spoke about being excited to film the Keanu Reeves film The Matrix 4. "I would have done any part Lana Wachowski would have given me. I'd be happy to do a walk-on. It was amazing just being there. I used to arrive on set sometimes when Carrie-Anne Moss or Neil Patrick Harris were filming and I'd sort of peek in and have a fangirl moment," the actor concluded.

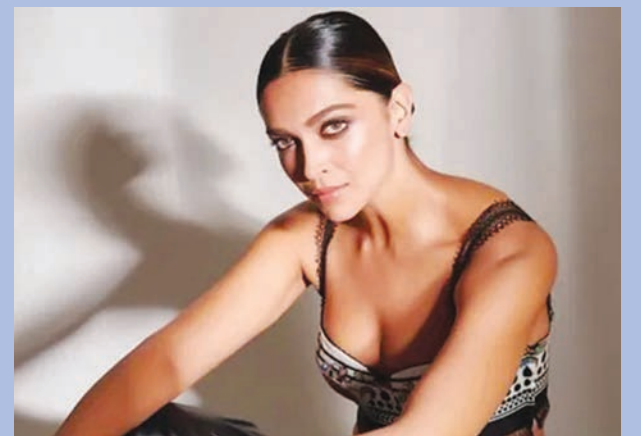


Deepika set to make her Hollywood comeback

Deepika Padukone has announced her next Hollywood project, four-and-a-half years after she starred in Vin Diesel's xXx: Return of Xander Cage. The actor has signed a cross-cultural romantic comedy, developed by Eros STX Global Corporations' division STXfilms.

Deepika will not only star in the project but also co-produce it under her banner Ka Productions. STXfilms is also in talks with Temple Hill Productions' Wyck Godfrey and Marty Bowen, of the Twilight franchise and The Fault in Our Stars fame, to develop the project.

In a statement, Deepika said, "Ka Productions was founded with the aim to develop and produce purposeful content with global appeal."





Jennifer Lopez suffers a fashion faux pas

Hollywood singer and actor Jennifer Lopez suffered a fashion faux pas as she arrived at a Dolce & Gabbana event in Venice sporting a floor-sweeping floral cape. It seems that she accidentally forgot to remove the price tag.

The price tag was seen hanging on a green silk floral cape that JLo wore for the event. Jennifer Lopez strutted along a jetty as she left her hotel, making her way to a water taxi to take her to the glam event. She had her security and glam team but her stylists failed to notice the label still attached to the cape, reports dailymail.co.uk. Jennifer Lopez was joined by make-up artist Mary Phillips and hair stylist Chris Appleton, who documented the event on Instagram.

JLo's dramatic ensemble consisted of a floral teal, green and pink cape with puffed sleeves and a bralette beneath.

Chris Evans, Scarlett Johansson to reunite in a 'high-concept romantic action adventure'

It's going to be a Marvel-lous reunion. Chris Evans and Scarlett Johansson are reuniting in Apple's adventure movie *Ghosted*, according to *The Hollywood Reporter*. The duo played the roles of Steve Rogers/Captain America and Natasha Romanoff/Black Widow in Marvel Cinematic Universe films.

English filmmaker Dexter Fletcher, who last directed Elton John biopic *Rocketman*, is in charge of the project. *Deadpool* writers Rhett Reese and Paul Wernick are writing the script.

As per *The Hollywood Reporter*, the project is "a high-concept romantic action adventure in the vein of *Romancing the Stone*." Johansson and Evans worked together in three *Avengers* films, *Captain America: Winter Soldier* and *Captain America: Civil War*.

Evans and Johansson are not only on-screen pals as Natasha and Steve, but they are good friends in real-life too, as apparent in interviews. They also discussed their respective projects — *Marriage Story* and *Knives Out*, respectively — and *Avengers: Endgame* on *Variety's Actors on Actors* video series. Apart from MCU, they have worked together in *The Perfect Score* (2004) and *The Nanny Diaries* (2007).

Scarlett, meanwhile, is engaged in a fierce legal battle with Disney, the owner of Marvel Studios. The bone of contention is the hybrid release (simultaneously in theatres and on Disney+) of her standalone MCU movie *Black Widow*, which, as per Scarlett, robbed her of \$50 million worth of bonuses.



Mission Impossible sues insurance company over 7 Covid shutdowns

Production on the new *Mission: Impossible* movie was shut down seven times due to the coronavirus pandemic, according to a lawsuit filed on Monday that accuses the film's insurance company of failing to pay out for all but one of the costly stoppages.

Filming on the action series starring Tom Cruise was delayed four times in Italy, and three times in the United Kingdom between February 2020 and June 2021, said the lawsuit filed by Paramount Pictures in US federal court in California.

The stoppages were caused by positive coronavirus tests among members of the cast or crew, or quarantine or lockdowns imposed in countries where the thriller was being filmed.

The lawsuit accuses Indiana-based Federal Insurance Company of breach of contract, saying it has agreed only to pay out 5 million USD for the first stoppage.

Federal Insurance did not immediately return a request for comment. Cruise, who is also a producer on the film, lost his temper on the set of *Mission: Impossible 7* in England in December over a breach in Covid protocols, threatening to fire cast and crew members who did not take them seriously.

Source: Reuters



Dwayne Johnson's Jungle Cruise 2 Announced



Hollywood stars Dwayne Johnson and Emily Blunt are set to return as wisecracking skipper Frank Wolff and intrepid researcher Dr Lily Houghton, respectively, for the sequel of their film 'Jungle Cruise'.

Expected to also come back are director Jaume Collet-Serra and the film's producing team of John Davis, John Fox, Beau Flynn, Johnson, Dany Garcia and Hiram Garcia. Scott Sheldon returns as executive producer, reports hollywoodreporter.com.

Dwayne Johnson shared his excitement on

Twitter by commenting: "ALL ABOARD Mahalo to our buddy @Borys_Kit for breaking the big Jungle Cruise sequel news!!! This is going to be FUN! Oh and cheers to Jungle Cruise just crossing \$100M at the domestic box office."

British comedian Jack wrote: "Boom! Jungle Cruise 2: Jolly up the Thames. #Sequel #ManifestIt."

'Jungle Cruise' opened July 30 to more than \$35 million at the domestic box office and more than \$30 million in Disney+ Premier Access in its first three days, according to the studio.

JUSTIN TRUDEAU CRITICISED FOR CALLING CANADIAN ELECTION IN 4TH WAVE

MONTREAL (TIP): Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau defended his decision to call an election during the pandemic in first debate of the campaign for this month's election.

Trudeau is facing a tough re-election battle against his Conservative Party rival, Erin O'Toole. The vote is on September 20.

"Why did you trigger an election in the middle of a fourth wave?" O'Toole asked Trudeau at the French-language debate in Montreal.

Trudeau said he needs a mandate from voters. "We must give Canadians the choice," he said.

He criticised O'Toole for not requiring his candidates to be vaccinated.

O'Toole said he believes the country can find reasonable accommodations for those who are unvaccinated, like rapid testing and social distancing.

Four provinces including Quebec and Ontario, Canada's largest, are bringing in vaccine passports that require citizens to be vaccinated to enter places like restaurants and gyms.

Trudeau called the election last month seeking to win the majority of seats in Parliament but polls show that is unlikely and that he might even lose power to O'Toole and the Conservative party. AP

CHINA WELCOMES RUSSIA'S PLAN FOR 'EXTENDED TROIKA' MEETING IN KABUL

BEIJING (TIP): China on September 3 reacted positively to a Russian proposal to convene a meeting of the "Extended Troika" on Afghanistan in Kabul — the first such conference since the Taliban seized power last month.

Russia plans to convene a new meeting of the "Extended Troika" on Afghanistan in Kabul after the resumption of commercial flights, Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Morgulov was quoted as saying by the Russian news agency Sputnik.

"We believe we should contribute to urgent stabilisation jointly with other international partners," Morgulov said.

"To that end, we plan to convene a new meeting of the Extended Troika, which includes Russia, the United States, China and Pakistan, in Kabul as soon as there are conditions. I mainly refer to the resumption of the Kabul airport operation for commercial civil aviation flights," he said. — PTI

UK's Raab cites need to engage with Taliban

DOHA (TIP): British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said on September 2 there was a need to engage with the Taliban on Afghanistan, but Britain had no immediate plans to recognise their government.

Raab was speaking during a joint press conference with Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani in Doha, where he visited housing for refugees evacuated from Afghanistan after the Taliban swept to power last month.

Sheikh Mohammed said Qatar was talking with the Taliban and working with Turkey for potential technical support to restart operations at Kabul airport.

"We are engaging with them (Taliban), engaging also with Turkey if they can provide any technical assistance on that front. Hopefully in the next few days there will be some good news," Sheikh Mohammed said. — Reuters



Japanese PM Suga denies reports of dissolving parliament in mid-September

TOKYO (TIP): Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga told reporters on September 1 that he had no plans to dissolve the country's lower house because of the severity of the coronavirus situation.

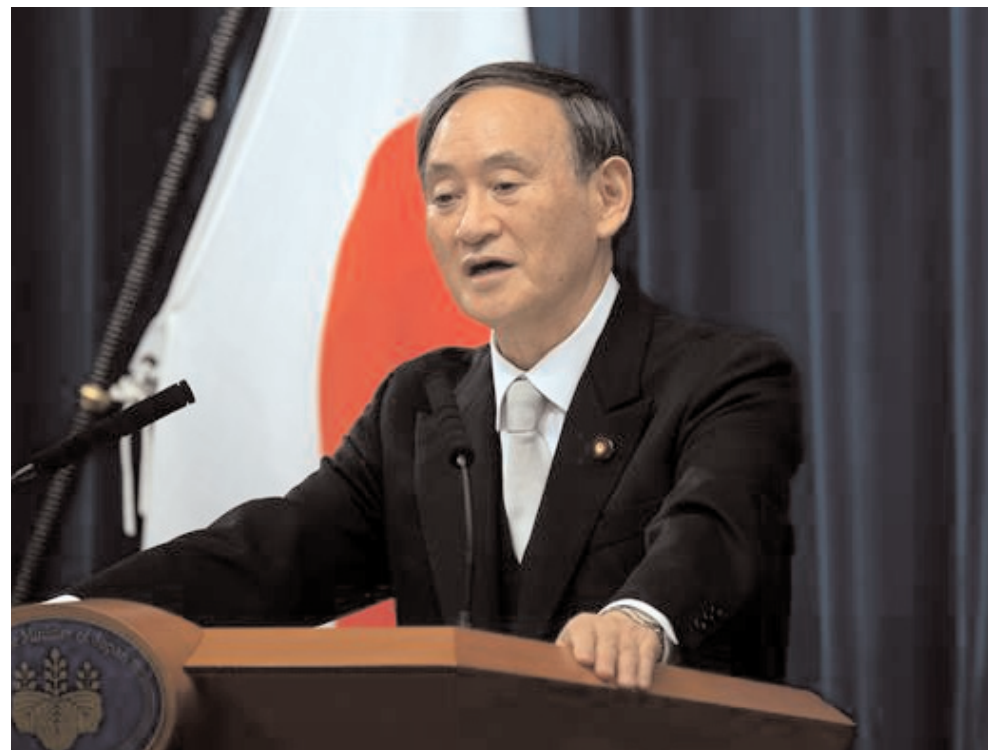
Domestic media reported this week that he intended to dissolve the lower house of parliament in mid-September after a cabinet and party executive reshuffle next week. Reports also said that the premier was considering holding the general election on Oct. 17.

Suga's denial of these reports comes after several days of tense negotiations and sudden twists involving Suga and the most powerful politicians in the ruling camp as the unpopular prime minister manoeuvres to stay in the top job.

"We can't dissolve the lower house in this current situation," said Suga, speaking of the severity of the coronavirus pandemic.

When asked whether that meant he would let members of the lower house of parliament serve their full terms, which end Oct. 21, Suga avoided a direct answer.

"THERE ARE NO PLANS TO PUSH BACK THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY LEADERSHIP ELECTION, AND WE WILL WORK AROUND THE DATES AVAILABLE FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION," HE SAID. THE LDP LEADERSHIP RACE IS SLATED TO BE HELD ON SEPT. 29.



Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga

On Tuesday, media said Suga planned to remove long-term party ally and current LDP Secretary General Toshihiro Nikai from his post. Nikai threw his backing behind Suga and helped him win the top post in the turmoil to succeed former premier Shinzo Abe last September.

But some parliamentarians have voiced their unease with the amount of power wielded by 82-year-old Nikai, who has held his post since August 2016 - the longest in the party's history.

Suga's support ratings are at record lows, as he failed to capitalise on delivering the Olympics amid a fresh wave of coronavirus infections. The government has since declared a fourth state of emergency in most of Japan.

The LDP and its allies are not expected to lose their coalition majority in the powerful lower house in the next general election, but forecasts suggest that the party could lose its outright majority, an outcome that would weaken the LDP leader. Reuters

Australia's economy slowed in Q2 ahead of lockdown downturn

SYDNEY (TIP): Australia's economy was already slowing in the June quarter before wide-spread coronavirus lockdowns slammed everything into reverse, leaving the country in a desperate race to vaccinate in the hope of opening up to recovery by Christmas.

Figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics out on September 1 showed gross domestic product (GDP) rose 0.7% in the June quarter. That was a step down from 1.9% in the March quarter, but topped forecasts of 0.5% and avoided analysts' worst fears of a negative outcome.

Annual growth was the fastest in modern history at 9.6%, but only because the pandemic caused a severe contraction in the June quarter last year, which was dropping from the calculation.

That painful pattern was playing out again as strict stay-at-home rules in Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra are set to see the economy shrink 2-3% or more this quarter.

The conservative government of Prime Minister Scott Morrison is pinning its hopes on a vaccination roll out that is gathering steam after a ham-fisted start.

Current projections are the country could reach 70% of adults vaccinated some time in October, which would allow for a relaxation of rules. Mass lockdowns could be abandoned altogether at 80%, which is tipped for November.

"Assuming the vaccination rollout continues at its current pace it is likely the Eastern states will begin to re-open in the December quarter, and this will enable the economy to recover," said Sarah Hunter, Chief Australia Economist for BIS Oxford Economics.

"But the shift to a new COVID-normal,



where there are persistent cases within the community, will make some people cautious and the recovery this time around will be drawn out into 2022."

The Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) has been counting on a rapid recovery once the restrictions ease, though the spread of the Delta variant has made its latest forecasts for growth look optimistic.

The central bank is now under pressure to delay a tapering of its bond buying programme planned for this month, and is not expected to raise interest rates from record lows of 0.1% until at least 2023.

The June quarter figures did show strength in consumer and government spending, housing and business investment, though much of that was offset by drags from net exports and inventories.

On the positive side, nominal GDP reached a record A\$2.07 trillion (\$1.51 trillion) for the year, making it the world's 11th largest economy. Output stood at A\$80,432 for every one of Australia's 25.6 million residents.

That outperformance owed much to super-high prices for many of the country's resource exports, which boosted its terms of trade by a massive 7.0% in the quarter and 24% for the year.

The flood of cash boosted company profits, tax receipts and employment, helping lift national incomes and so nominal GDP by a robust 3.2% in the quarter.

There was some moderation in the household savings ratio to 9.7%, but spending power has been underpinned by a boom in house prices which even seems impervious to the spread of Delta. Reuters

CAR CRASH: 90-YEAR-OLD JAPANESE GETS 5-YR JAIL

TOKYO (TIP): A Japanese court on September 2 sentenced a 90-year-old former senior government official to five years in prison for a 2019 car accident which killed a 3-year-old girl and her mother, in a high-profile case in a fast-aging country. AP

CHINA BANS 'SISSY MEN' FROM TV IN CRACKDOWN

BEIJING (TIP): China's government banned effeminate men on TV and told broadcasters on Thursday to promote "revolutionary culture", broadening a campaign to tighten control over business and society and enforce official morality. PTI

LAWYERS SEEK ICC PROBE INTO 'WAR CRIMES' IN YEMEN

THE HAGUE (TIP): Human rights lawyers representing hundreds of victims of Yemen's civil war are calling on the International Criminal Court (ICC) to open an investigation into war crimes and crimes against humanity allegedly committed by the Saudi Arabia-led coalition during the devastating conflict.

British lawyer Toby Cadman filed the request on September 1, highlighting three incidents — an August 2018 airstrike that destroyed a school bus and killed dozens; a missile attack in October 2016 that killed at least 110 people; and allegations of torture and murder of civilians being held in prisons in the south of Yemen.

The filing came a day after a missile and drone attack, blamed on the Houthi rebels, on a key military base in Yemen's south killed at least 30 troops.

The civil war in Yemen erupted in 2014, when the Iranian-backed Houthis swept across much of the north and seized the capital, Sanaa, forcing the internationally recognised government into exile. The Saudi-led coalition entered the war the following year on the side of the government. All sides are accused of atrocities in the years-long conflict.

Lawyer Almudena Bernabeu, representing victims of the school bus attack, said the coalition said it would investigate the deadly strike and bring those responsible to justice.

"Of course, they did no such thing," Bernabeu said in a statement. "As the court of last resort, victims and families have no choice, but to call on the International Criminal Court to ensure justice is done." A spokesman for the Saudi-led coalition did not respond to phone calls seeking comment. — AP

Fighting in Syria kills 4 soldiers

BEIRUT (TIP): The Syrian government forces shelled rebel-held parts of a volatile southern city September 1 killing at least one person, while insurgents killed four soldiers after Russia-brokered talks to end the presence of opposition fighters in the area collapsed.

Syria's state media reported that government forces retaliated against fire by opposition fighters inside the city of Daraa and that attacks on army checkpoints in the city left four soldiers dead and 15 wounded.

It said several civilians were wounded in insurgent shelling of government-held parts of Daraa.

The opposition blamed the government for the escalation, saying that troops were pressing an offensive to force insurgents to surrender.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an



opposition war monitor, said the government's elite 4th Division and pro-government gunmen tried to storm the rebel-held old quarter of Daraa

known as Daraa al-Balad. At least one person was killed and another wounded in shelling on Daraa al-Balad. — AP

EFFORTS ON TO EVACUATE GIRLS' SOCCER TEAM FROM AFGHANISTAN

KABUL (TIP): They move from place to place at a moment's notice in a desperate bid to evade the Taliban — girls whose lives are in danger simply because they chose to play a sport they loved.

An international effort to evacuate members of the Afghanistan national girls' soccer team, along with their family members and soccer federation staff, suffered a crushing setback last week after a suicide bombing at the Kabul airport killed 169 Afghans and 13 US service members during a harrowing airlift. Frightened and desperate, the girls now worry whether a far-flung coalition of former US military and Intelligence officials, Congressmen, US allies, humanitarian groups and the captain of the Afghanistan women's national team can get them and their loved ones to safety. TNS

2 TEENAGE GIRLS GANG-RAPED BY 7 MEN IN LAHORE

LAHORE (TIP): Two teenage girls were allegedly gang-raped by seven men in Lahore, sparking outrage over increase in sexual assault cases in Pakistan's Punjab province.

The Opposition has demanded resignation of Punjab Chief Minister Usman Buzdar for his failure to control sexual assault on women in the province of 110-million.

According to the FIR, two female cousins — aged 18 and 16 — had gone from their residence in Shahdara to Fazal Park in the city on a rickshaw on September 1 evening to pick clothes from the house of a customer for sewing. "On their way, some men abducted the girls at gunpoint and took them to a nearby area of a factory and drugged them. The culprits raped the girls throughout the night and fled in the morning," the FIR says.

The girls called on police emergency number and narrated their ordeal.

On the statements of the victims, Lahore police claim to have arrested all seven suspected rapists including the factory owner. They have been booked under various sections of the Pakistan Penal Code.

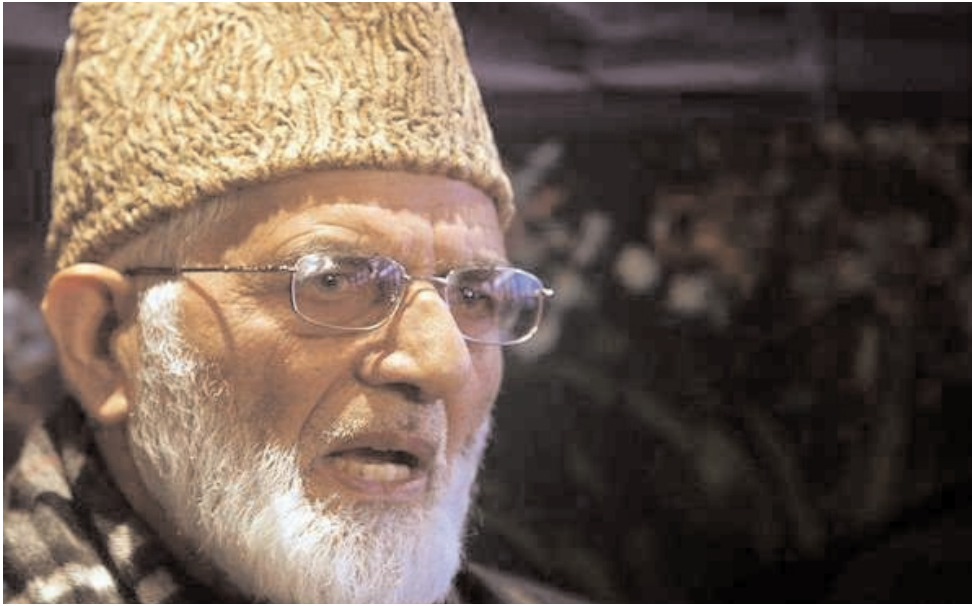
Meanwhile, police are conducting the medico-legal of the victims.

Punjab has witnessed an increase in the number of women assault incidents in recent weeks.

The sexual assault of a YouTuber girl on August 14 at the historic Minar-i-Pakistan sparked nationwide outrage and drew international condemnation.

Police had registered a case on Tuesday against 400 unidentified men for assaulting the girl and her companions. Police have arrested 160 suspects so far in this case after identifying them through video footages. PTI

Pakistani flag to fly at half mast to mourn Geelani's death



ISLAMABAD (TIP): Pakistan will mourn the passing away of the separatist leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani by flying the flag at half mast and will also observe a day of official mourning.

"Deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Kashmiri freedom fighter Syed Ali Geelani who struggled all his life for his people & their right to self determination. He suffered incarceration & torture by the occupying Indian state but remained resolute," Prime Minister Imran Khan said in a tweet.

"We in Pakistan salute his courageous struggle & remember his words: 'Hum Pakistani hain aur Pakistan Humara hai'. The Pakistan flag will fly at half mast and we will observe a day of official mourning," Khan said in another tweet.

Sri Lanka's Supreme Court sets up 3-member bench for 2019 Easter attack trial

COLOMBO (TIP): Sri Lanka's Supreme Court on September 1 appointed a three-member Bench to hear the cases filed against the suspects in connection with the 2019 Easter suicide attack in which over 270 people, including 11 Indians, were killed.

Lankan police had filed 23,270 charges against 35 people last month in the case. The charges filed under the Prevention of Terrorism Act include conspiring to murder, aiding and abetting, collecting arms and ammunition, and attempted murder.

Colombo High Court Judge Damith Thotawatte will chair the three-judge Bench, while Judges Amal Ranaraja and Navaratne Marasinghe have been appointed as members of the judiciary panel.

The setting up of the special Trial-at-Bar at the Colombo High Court came following a request from Attorney General Sanjay Rajaratnam to Chief Justice Jayantha Jayasuriya last month.

Nine suicide bombers, belonging to local Islamist extremist group National Thawheed Jamaat (NTJ) linked to ISIS, carried out a series of blasts that tore through three churches and as many luxury hotels in Sri Lanka, killing over 270 people and injuring more than 500 people on April 21, 2019.

The Buddhist-majority nation was about to mark a decade since ending a 37-year-long Tamil separatist war in May 2009 when the bombings in 2019 rocked the country.

The attacks caused a political storm as the then government headed by President Maithripala Sirisena and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe was blamed for its inability to prevent the deadly attacks despite the prior intelligence made available on the



impending terror strikes.

The Catholic Church has also expressed its dissatisfaction over the ongoing investigations, which they alleged was an attempt for a cover up.

The church has been demanding justice for the victims, asserting that no action has been taken against Sirisena and Wickremesinghe, despite a commission of inquiry finding both of them culpable for their failures to prevent the attack.

The government maintains that investigations are proceeding. Lankan police have arrested hundreds of suspects in connection with the suicide bombings.

During his election campaign in November 2019, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa had pledged to conduct a

thorough investigation into the attacks and bring the culprits to book.

During his tenure, Sirisena had formed a presidential panel to probe the attacks.

In its report, the panel said former President Sirisena and a host of other top defence officials, including former defence secretaries, former IGPs and intelligence chiefs, were guilty of ignoring prior intelligence. The panel report recommended criminal action against them.

Both the then-police chief and the top defence bureaucrat were sacked and arrested for their inaction to prevent the attacks.

Then Prime Minister Wickremesinghe was also blamed for turning a blind eye to the rising Islamic militancy. It was cited as an encouragement to the extremists. Both have denied responsibility. PTI

HISTORY THIS WEEK

SEPTEMBER 03 TO 09, 2021

"IT IS REMARKABLE HOW CLOSELY THE HISTORY OF THE APPLE TREE IS CONNECTED WITH THAT OF MAN."- HENRY DAVID THOREAU

September 3

SEPTEMBER 3, 1783 - The Treaty of Paris was signed by John Adams, Ben Franklin and John Jay, formally ending the American Revolutionary War between Britain and the United States.



The New York Sun Newspaper

SEPTEMBER 3, 1833 - The New York Sun newspaper first appeared, marking the beginning of the 'penny press,' inexpensive newspapers sold on sidewalks by newspaper boys. The paper focused on human interest stories and sensationalism and by 1836 was the largest seller in America with a circulation of 30,000.



Frederick Douglass

SEPTEMBER 3, 1838 - Anti-slavery leader Frederick Douglass began his escape from slavery by boarding a train in Baltimore dressed as a sailor. He rode to Wilmington, Delaware, where he caught a steamboat to the free city of Philadelphia, then took a train to New York City where he came under the protection of the Underground Railway network.

SEPTEMBER 3, 1939 - Great Britain and France declared war on Nazi Germany after its invasion of Poland two days earlier.

SEPTEMBER 3, 1943 - Italy signed an armistice with the Allies during World War II in Europe as the British Eighth Army, commanded by General Bernard Montgomery, invaded the Italian mainland from Sicily.

September 4



The Island of Manhattan

SEPTEMBER 4, 1609 - The island of Manhattan was discovered by navigator Henry Hudson.

SEPTEMBER 4, 1781 - Los Angeles was founded by the Spanish Governor of California, Felipe de Neve, near the site of the Native American village of Yang-na. The original name was El Pueblo de la Reina de Los Angeles (The Town of the Queen of the Angels).

SEPTEMBER 4, 1886 - The last major U.S.-Indian war came to an end as Geronimo was captured. He died of natural causes in 1909 at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.



Anton Bruckner

BIRTHDAY - Austrian composer Anton Bruckner (1824-1896) was born in Ansfelden, Austria. Best known for his monumental ten symphonies.

September 5

SEPTEMBER 5, 1774 - The First Continental Congress assembled in Philadelphia with 56 delegates, representing every colony, except Georgia. Attendants included Patrick Henry, George Washington, Sam Adams and John Hancock.

SEPTEMBER 5-6, 1972 - Eleven members of the Israeli Olympic Team were killed during an attack on the Olympic Village in Munich by members of the Black September faction of the Palestinian Liberation Army. Israeli jets then bombed Palestinian positions in Lebanon and Syria in retaliation on September 8, 1972.

SEPTEMBER 5, 1975 - The first of two September assassination attempts on President Gerald Ford occurred as a woman pointed a gun at the President in Sacramento, California. Two weeks later, a second attempt occurred as another woman fired a shot at Ford in San Francisco. Ford was not harmed in either incident.



Mother Teresa

SEPTEMBER 5, 1997 - Mother Teresa died in Calcutta at age 87, after a life of good works spent aiding the sick and poor in India through her Missionaries of Charity order.

BIRTHDAY - Wild West legend Jesse James (1847-1882) was born in Centerville, Missouri. Following the American Civil War, Jesse and his brother Frank formed a group of outlaws, robbing banks, trains, stagecoaches and stores. In 1882, after the governor of Missouri offered a \$10,000 reward for their capture dead or alive, a member of the gang shot 34-year-old Jesse in the back of the head and claimed the reward.

September 6

SEPTEMBER 6, 1991 - Leningrad was renamed Saint Petersburg by Russian legislators following the collapse of the Soviet Union. Russia's second largest city had been known as Leningrad for 67 years in honor of Vladimir Lenin, founder of the Soviet Union.



Marquis Lafayette

BIRTHDAY - Marquis de Lafayette (1757-1834) was born in Chavaniac, France (as Marie-Joseph-Paul-Yves-Roch-Gilbert du Motier). He came to America in 1777 to volunteer in the American Revolution, beginning a long friendship with George Washington. He later persuaded Louis XVI of France to send a 6,000-man force to assist the Americans. Lafayette was given command of an army in Virginia and was instrumental in forcing Cornwallis to surrender at Yorktown, leading to the American victory.

BIRTHDAY - Pioneering American social worker Jane Addams (1860-1935) was born in Cedarville, Illinois. In 1883, she toured the great European cities to study famous historic sites but was deeply moved by the hunger and misery she found among the common people. She then founded Hull House in Chicago to serve the sick and poor and managed the settlement for the next 46 years.

September 7

SEPTEMBER 7, 1822 - Brazil declared its independence from Portugal

after 322 years as a colony.

SEPTEMBER 7, 1994 - The U.S. Army closed its headquarters in Berlin, ending the American military presence in the once-divided city after nearly half a century.

SEPTEMBER 7, 1999 - For the first time since World War II, Germany's parliament, the Bundestag, returned to Berlin, former capital of Imperial Germany as well as Hitler's Reich. The Bundestag held its first session in the fully restored Reichstag building, attended by parliamentarians from around the world. The session also marked the 50th anniversary of the Bundestag's first post-war session, held in Bonn, the former capital of West Germany.



Queen Elizabeth

BIRTHDAY - Queen Elizabeth I (1533-1603) was born in Greenwich Palace. She was the daughter of King Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn. She ascended the throne in 1558 at age 25. During her reign, Britain became a world power by defeating the Spanish Armada. The Anglican Church was also fully established.

September 8

SEPTEMBER 8, 1941 - The German Army began its blockade of Leningrad, lasting until January 1944, resulting in the deaths of almost one million Russian civilians.

SEPTEMBER 8, 1974 - A month after resigning the presidency in disgrace as a result of the Watergate scandal, Richard Nixon was granted a full pardon by President Gerald R. Ford for all offenses committed while in office.

September 9

SEPTEMBER 9, 1976

- Longtime leader of Communist China, Chairman Mao Zedong, died. As a Chinese revolutionary soldier and statesman, he had proclaimed the People's Republic of China in 1949 in Beijing.



Mao Zedong

SEPTEMBER 9, 1993 - Israel and the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organization) agreed to recognize each other, paving the way for a possible peaceful end to the hundred-year-old conflict between Arabs and Jews in the Mideast.

Turn fashion accessories you're not wearing into home decor

Home decor does not always have to be about spending tons of money to get fancy things. Sometimes it's all about ingenuity and recycling. If you have a lot of fashion accessories lying around, you can repurpose them into eye-catching decor pieces for your home!

Here are some excellent ways to use the old or spare accessories you might have around and turn them into gorgeous home decor pieces.

Turn Your Silk Scarves Into Wall Art

Silk scarves usually have gorgeous prints and many of them look like pieces of art without even being framed. But if you want to up the oomph factor, just frame the scarves you are not using and hang them as statement pieces around your home.

Turn Your Earrings Into Decor

You might have seen people artfully arrange their earrings on a netted frame. Take it a step further and turn your earring collection into usable art. If you hang them from a pretty frame and put a small glass door in front, you can even display it in your living room. It's called being ingenious!

Use Heavy Bangles Or Bracelets As Paperweights

Pretty paperweights are all in vogue. If you want to make your study/work table look fancy but without spending money, just use some of your heavily-embellished bangles as cute paperweights! You don't have to shell out extra just to make your work-corner look presentable.

Use Umbrellas As Lampshades

If you want to give your living room a soft vibe, all you need are some umbrellas. They make for brilliant and unique lampshades, especially when hanging from



the ceiling.

Treat Your Fancy Accessories As Sculptural Art

You don't need to put your fancy bags and shoes into drawers and out of sight. If they are pretty, just turn them into sculptures within the house. If it sparks joy within you, put it on display on the mantelpiece or the bookcase! You can also put your favorite accessories into glass cases, turning them into objets d'art.

There are many other ways you can use the things you already have in the house to make your home more beautiful. All you need is a bit of imagination and the ability to think out of the box. Shake things up by reducing, reusing and recycling within your own home!

Source: IDiva

FOOD CORNER

Tomato Rice



INGREDIENTS

1 cup soaked basmati rice, 2 medium chopped onion, 2 teaspoon sambhar powder, 1 handful chopped, coriander leaves, 2 tablespoon refined oil, 1/2 teaspoon garlic paste, 4 large chopped tomato, 3 medium green chilli, 1/4 teaspoon powdered turmeric, 3 pinches salt, 1/2 teaspoon ginger paste, 2 pinches red chilli powder

Method

- Wash and dry the basmati rice and soak for about 20 minutes. Take a deep pan, put it on medium flame and pour water in it. Bring it to a boil, and then add the soaked rice. Cover the pan with a lid and cook on medium flame till the rice becomes soft, but not mushy. Now remove from fire and keep it aside. Now put the chopped tomatoes in a blender and blend it properly. Transfer the puree in a bowl and keep it aside. Now heat 2 tbsp of oil in a pan and add the ingredients for seasoning (mustard, asafoetida, curry leaves, dried red chillis). Add onions and saute. Then add green chillies and ginger-garlic paste. Saute these ingredients for a minute.
- Now add the tomato puree, turmeric powder, red chilli powder, sambar powder and salt. Cook until the oil separates. Add the cooked rice to the tomato gravy and mix well. Once done, transfer the tomato rice in a serving bowl and garnish with coriander leaves. Serve hot with papads, potato chips or raita.

Say hello to glowing skin with these morning and night routines

Taking care of your skin is extremely necessary. However, with an overwhelming amount of information available, it can get difficult to decide what steps and products should be a part of your morning and night skincare routines. With the right skincare routine followed with discipline, you can ensure very healthy and glowing skin for yourself.

If you are confused about what skincare routine to follow, look no further as fitness trainer Yasmin Karachiwala and dermatologist Dr Jaishree Sharad have put all your doubts to rest. In an Instagram post shared by the former, Dr Sharad can be seen explaining the best practices to follow as your morning and night skincare routines.

Adopt the following morning and night skincare routines, as suggested by the dermatologist, for clean and healthy skin.

AM routine

Step 1- Cleaning

- To wash off all the products you used. Don't forget the eyes and ears.

Step 2- Apply serum



- Take just three drops and apply the serum all over your face. Warm it up in your hands before applying. Don't forget to dab it under the eyes.

Step 3- Moisturise

- Moisturise your entire face and

neck

Step 4- Sunscreen

- Apply sunscreen evenly on your face and neck. According to Dr Sharad, if your face becomes too white because of the sunscreen,

"you have to leave it on for a while or it is the wrong sunscreen"

"You don't need a toner unless you have very oily skin or acne-prone skin," she added.

PM routine

Step 1- Removing your make-up

- However tired you are, you have to remove your make up. Don't go to sleep with makeup.

Step 2- Cleansing

- Clean your face and neck completely to remove any dirt or makeup residue.

Step 3- Apply under eye serum

- Take one drop and dab it gently under the eye.

Step 4- Apply night serum

- Take not more than three drops and apply the serum on the entire face.

Step 5- Apply a targeted cream

- Targeted creams are specific creams for anti-ageing, pigmentation, acne etc.

Source: The Indian Express

Higher risk of Covid complications if pregnant woman gets infected in 3rd trimester

NEW DELHI (TIP): "Pregnant women with certain high-risk conditions such as hypertension, diabetes, chronic respiratory conditions, asthma, cystic fibrosis, homozygous sickle cell disease, or those on immune suppression therapies, dialysis or advanced chronic kidney disease, congenital or acquired heart disease and organ transplant recipients have greater risk of severe illness from Covid-19," says Sumitra Bachani, Associate Professor, Gynaecologist and Obstetrician Department, Safdarjung Hospital and Vardhaman Mahavir Medical College.

She said that pregnant women with symptomatic Covid are at an increased risk of adverse pregnancy outcomes, including admission to the ICU, iatrogenic pre-term birth, pregnancy associated hypertension-like symptoms, operative intervention and even death.

Also, there is a higher risk of developing Covid complications if a pregnant woman contracts the infection in the third trimester, which is the last three months of pregnancy. That is because the large uterus presses on the diaphragm and hampers the lung capacity, thus making it more difficult for the woman to maintain oxygen saturation, she said.

On the question of infection transmission from mother to the foetus, she said that such transmission to the foetus during pregnancy is yet a matter under research. To date, we have observed that mild to moderate Covid-19 infection in mothers does not affect the fetus or the newborn much. However, in severe cases, the foetus is at risk of perinatal morbidity due to hypoxia or low oxygen saturation, pre-term birth, and mortality.

However, mother and infant can stay together in the same room if the mother does not have severe Covid-19 which requires hospitalisation. Make sure that the room is well-ventilated and there is someone else also in the family who is Covid negative to take care of the infant. A mother should wear a mask and maintain 6 feet distance from the child. However, she can breastfeed the child, adds Bachani.

Asked about Covid vaccine for pregnant women and young mothers, Bachani added that they should definitely take the vaccine.

Experts say the benefits of vaccination outweigh the risk of morbidity and mortality associated with Covid-



19, especially if contracted during pregnancy. Besides, there is an additional benefit—a vaccinated mother also passes the antibodies she develops post vaccination to the unborn foetus through blood as well as through breast milk.

However, she added that like the general population, pregnant women too should avoid taking vaccine if she has an anaphylactic or allergic reaction to the previous dose of Covid-19 vaccine or to other vaccines or injectable therapies, pharmaceutical products, food items, etc.

"If she has recently been diagnosed with Covid-19 infection, she should wait for 12 weeks from the onset of infection or 4 to 8 weeks from recovery from active Covid-19 infection for taking the vaccine" added Bachani.

Source: IANS



Common pesticide may contribute to global obesity epidemic

TORONTO (TIP): A commonly-used pesticide could be partially responsible for the global obesity epidemic, finds a study.

Researchers from McMaster University in Canada discovered that chlorpyrifos—widely sprayed on fruits and vegetables in many parts of the world—slows down the burning of calories in the brown adipose tissue of mice.

Reducing the burning of calories, a process known as diet-induced thermogenesis, causes the body to store these extra calories and promotes obesity.

Scientists made the discovery after studying 34 commonly used pesticides and herbicides in brown fat cells and testing the effects of chlorpyrifos in mice fed high calorie diets.

The findings, published in the journal, 'Nature Communications', can have important implications for public health.

"Brown fat is the metabolic furnace in our body, burning calories, unlike normal fat that is used to store them. This generates heat and prevents calories from being deposited on our bodies as normal white fat. We know brown fat is activated during cold and when we eat," said Gregory Steinberg, Professor of medicine at McMaster.

"Lifestyle changes around diet and exercise rarely lead to sustained weight loss. We think part of the problem may be this intrinsic dialling back of the metabolic furnace by chlorpyrifos," he added.

Steinberg said chlorpyrifos would only need to inhibit energy use in brown fat by 40 calories every day to trigger obesity in adults, which would translate to an extra five lbs (pounds) of weight gain per year.

He further said that while several environmental toxins including chlorpyrifos have been linked to rising obesity rates in both humans and animals, most of these studies have attributed weight gain to increases in food intake and not the burning of calories.

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Food combinations to burn fat, beat bloating and boost metabolism

Weight loss is not an easy process, but one that can be achieved by being consistent. Dietitian Vidhi Chawla says that in order to lose weight successfully, one has to exercise and eat proper food every day.

"There are certain food combinations that can help you burn fat, beat bloating and boost metabolism. Do not skip your breakfast; it may cause you to not consume adequate amounts of fibre and nutrients. It can also increase bouts of acidity," she advises.

The dietitian lists some food combinations that may work magic to lose weight. Read on.

EGG AND BELL PEPPER: Eggs are a powerful superfood on their own, but when combined with bell pepper — another fat-burning ingredient — it can help you lose weight quickly. Eggs are rich in vitamins,



antioxidants, and healthy fats, as well as choline, a nutrient that boosts metabolism. Bell peppers, on the other hand, are rich in vitamin C. Eating peppers can help you burn stored fat and convert carbs into fuel, keeping you energised all day. By adding bell peppers into your eggs, you can significantly accelerate weight loss.

CARROTS AND TAHINI: Carrots contain about 10 per cent of carbs, are made up of starch, simple sugars and

fibre. They also have a low glycemic index and are rich in vitamin A in the beta carotene form, vitamin K, B-vitamins, and potassium. Tahini, also known as sesame butter, is high in calcium and can help you lose weight by reducing your appetite and calorie intake.

FIGS AND BRAZIL NUTS: Figs are considered to be a healthy replacement for unhealthy snacks because they have few calories and no fats at all. They are high in antioxidants, which help reduce cell-damaging free radicals in your body. Brazil nuts, on the other hand, are a great source of selenium, an antioxidant that helps your body's immune system and promotes metabolism. When combined with figs, it will aid in weight loss by making you feel fuller, increasing your metabolism, and ensuring you eat fewer unhealthy snacks.

Astronaut gets special ice cream delivery for 50th birthday

A space station astronaut is celebrating her 50th birthday with the coolest present ever — a supply ship bearing ice cream and other treats.

SpaceX's latest cargo delivery showed up Monday at the International Space Station after a day in transit. Overseeing the automated docking was NASA astronaut Megan McArthur.

"No one's ever sent me a spaceship for my birthday before. I appreciate it," she radioed after the capsule arrived.

Launched on Aug 29 from NASA's Kennedy Space Centre, the capsule contains lemons, cherry tomatoes, avocados and ice cream for McArthur and her six crewmates, along with a couple tons of research and other gear.

The shipment arrived just a few days ahead of the first of three spacewalks.

Starting Sept 3, the two Russians on board will perform back-to-back spacewalks to outfit a new laboratory that arrived in July.

Then a Japanese-French spacewalking duo will venture out on September 12 to install a bracket for new solar panels due to arrive next year. That NASA-directed spacewalk should have occurred last week, but was postponed after US spacewalker, Mark Vande Hei, suffered a pinched nerve in his neck. Station managers opted to replace him with French astronaut Thomas Pesquet.

Source: AP

SpaceX launches ants, avocados, robot to space station

A SpaceX shipment of ants, avocados and a human-sized robotic arm rocketed toward the International Space Station on Sunday. The delivery, due to arrive Monday, is the company's 23rd for NASA in just under a decade.

A recycled Falcon rocket blasted into the predawn sky from NASA's Kennedy Space Center. After hoisting the Dragon capsule, the first-stage booster landed upright on SpaceX's newest ocean platform, named "A Shortfall of Gravitas".

SpaceX founder Elon Musk continued his tradition of naming the booster-recovery vessels in tribute to the late science fiction writer Iain Banks and his Culture series.

The Dragon is carrying more than 4,800 pounds (2,170 kilogrammes) of supplies and experiments, and fresh food including avocados, lemons and even ice cream for the space station's seven astronauts.

The Girl Scouts are sending up ants, brine shrimp and plants as test subjects, while University of Wisconsin-Madison scientists are flying up seeds from mouse-ear cress, a small flowering weed used in genetic research. Samples of concrete, solar cells and other materials also will be subjected to weightlessness.

A Japanese start-up company's experimental robotic arm, meanwhile, will attempt to screw items together in its orbital debut and perform other mundane chores normally done by astronauts. The first tests will be done inside the space station. Future models of



Gitai Inc.'s robot will venture out into the vacuum of space to practice satellite and other repair jobs, said chief technology officer Toyotaka Kozuki.

As early as 2025, a squad of these arms could help build lunar bases and mine the moon for precious resources, he added.

SpaceX had to leave some experiments

behind because of delays resulting from Covid-19.

It was the second launch attempt; Saturday's try was foiled by stormy weather.

NASA turned to SpaceX and other US companies to deliver cargo and crews to the space station, once the space shuttle program ended in 2011. Source: AP

Apple buys classical-music service Primephonic, will launch app

Apple Inc. has acquired classical-music streaming service Primephonic and plans to launch an app dedicated to the genre next year. Primephonic's playlists and audio content will be integrated into Apple Music in the coming months, the company has said.

Primephonic's existing service will be shut down on September 7, but its subscribers will get six months of Apple Music for free.

Since launching Apple Music in 2015, Apple has made a few acquisitions to bolster the service. It bought music-recognition app Shazam in 2018, letting customers identify songs and add them to their playlists.

But Apple has faced fierce competition from Spotify Technology SA in streaming music around the world. The Cupertino, California-based company didn't disclose the Primephonic purchase price.

Besides, back at WWDC 2020, Apple announced its plans to completely transition to its own processors. The company said it would take around two years to fully transition to their own silicon. A recent report from Bloomberg detailed the company's roadmap in the year to come. Bloomberg journalist Mark Gurman, in his edition of the Power On newsletter, explained that he believes the company will "barely hit its two-year timeline" for transitioning the Mac lineup fully to Apple Silicon. We have so far seen the Cupertino-based company brings its M1 chips to the MacBook Pro series, MacBook Air series, Mac Mini and the 24-inch iMac.

Source: Bloomberg

Hide last seen and blue ticks on WhatsApp

WhatsApp lets you hide your last seen and blue ticks on the app to give you some privacy. In case you haven't yet noticed these features, then you can try them now. Both the features are listed in the privacy section of the messaging app.

Both the features are available as an option because there are users who don't want others to know when they read the message. Here's how you can enable or disable last seen and blue ticks.

How to hide Last seen on WhatsApp

Step 1: If you want to hide your last seen, then just open the WhatsApp app and head to the Settings section.

Step 2: Now head to the Account section and tap on Privacy. It should be noted that whatever settings you save will apply to both the mobile and web version of the messaging app.

Step 3: Now, tap on the Last Seen option and change the Setting to "Nobody."

Note: You get three options, including "Everyone", "My Contacts" and "Nobody". The first one basically means that people who have your WhatsApp number will be able to see your last seen. The second option means that only your contacts will be able to check your last seen on WhatsApp. If you enable the "Nobody" option, then no one will be able to see your WhatsApp last seen. You can select any last seen option any time you want.

How to hide blue tick on WhatsApp

The process to hide blue ticks is similar. You will find this feature in the Privacy section, but you will not find it in the same name. WhatsApp offers a Read Receipts



option, which will disable the blue ticks. Read on to know more.

Step 1: First head to the WhatsApp app and open the Settings section.

Step 2: Now, go to "Account" and tap on the Privacy option.

Step 3: Scroll down to "Read Receipts" option and disable it to hide blue ticks on chats.

Users can enable this option anytime they want by following the same process. It should be noted that if you disable the mentioned option, then you won't be able to see blue ticks when others read messages you sent. Source: The Indian Express

Tesla moves a step closer to making India debut

Electric cars from Tesla Inc. may soon be on Indian roads, with the Union transport ministry approving four of its models for introduction in the country. The ministry's Vahan portal, however, did not identify the models that received the nod.

All automobile manufacturers, both Indian and foreign, need to get their vehicles locally certified before a formal launch. Tesla last year set up its Indian unit, Tesla India Motors and Energy Pvt. Ltd, marking its intention for an entry into its potential growth market for electric cars. The California-based company has also started hiring senior executives to prepare the ground before a possible launch. "Tesla has completed homologation and received approval for 4 of its vehicle variants in India. While we don't have any conformation on names as yet, these are probably Model 3 and Model 4 variants," Tesla Fan Club India tweeted. A Tesla spokesperson did not respond to emailed queries. The approval does not necessarily imply an immediate launch. The Elon Musk-led company has been asking India for a cut in import duty on electric vehicles and related parts as it is expected to initially import its vehicles as fully built units.

GDP growth 20.1% in Q1 after Covid slump

NEW DELHI (TIP): India's GDP grew at 20.1% in the quarter ending June — in line with expectations — although the high number is the result, not of a V-shaped recovery in the economy, but a favourable base effect. Compared to the last quarter of 2020-21, the country's GDP actually contracted by 16.9%, although this can be attributed to the bruising second wave of the pandemic in April and May. And compared to the first quarter of 2019-20, it contracted 9.2%.

The growth was largely the result of a 68-day long nationwide lockdown imposed on March 25, 2020, that led to an unprecedented contraction of 24.4% in GDP. Indeed, economic activity did not regain pre-pandemic levels (in the June 2019 quarter) in the first quarter of the current fiscal year.

RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) projected a growth rate of 21.3% and a Bloomberg poll of 45 economists, 21% for the quarter. Gross Value Added (GVA), which captures the actual production (GDP numbers also include taxes) grew at 18.8%, again lower than a Bloomberg forecast of 19.6%.

"The fact is that the latest GDP numbers show a large sequential contraction and,



when compared to June 2019 levels, show the enormity of the economic challenge. Even these numbers could see significant downward revisions as there might have been an overestimation of informal sector activity in these estimates," said Himanshu, associate professor of economics at Jawaharlal Nehru University.

However, chief economic advisor Krishnamurthy V Subramanian chose to focus only on the growth (and not the base effect) and said strong fiscal measures announced in the past year-and-half, and the pace of India's vaccination drive have helped faster economic recovery. The growth number "reaffirms the government's prediction of an imminent V-

shaped recovery made last year in August," he said.

Central government spending numbers from the Controller General of Accounts (CGA), which works under the ministry of finance, show that capital expenditure of the government was Rs 1.11 lakh crore in the quarter ending June compared to Rs 88,273 crores in the same period last year. The capex momentum seems to have slowed down in the month of July (the latest available numbers), with the government spending Rs 16,932 crore in July compared to Rs 23,576 crore in July 2020.

The latest GDP numbers support the argument that the pandemic, especially its second wave has damaged household balance sheets and therefore their purchasing power.

Private final consumption expenditure (PFCE) contracted by 17.4%, more than the overall GDP number on a quarter-on-quarter basis in the June quarter. Even the year-on-year numbers show that private consumption has a bigger deficit with pre-pandemic levels. PFCE grew only 19.3% in the quarter against a 26.2% contraction in the quarter ending June 2020. *Source: HT*

Covid-19 delta variant hits Chinese economy as services industry contract

China's economy took a knock from the delta virus outbreak in August, adding to signs of a slowdown in growth in the second half of the year and fueling speculation of more central bank support.

The official purchasing managers surveys showed the services industry contracted for the first time since February 2020 as consumers cut back on spending and travel amid new virus curbs. The manufacturing purchasing managers' index fell slightly to 50.1 from 50.4 in July, partly due to supply-chain disruptions.

Beyond the virus outbreaks, China's recovery is also showing signs of faltering in the wake of recent regulatory crackdowns and weak demand at home. The central bank has signaled it may provide more targeted support -- such as cutting the reserve requirement ratio for some lenders -- while the government has pledged to accelerate fiscal spending in the second half of the year, helping to cushion growth.

"The service sector was shocked by the delta variant, extending the ongoing theme of uneven recovery," said Raymond Yeung, chief economist for Greater China at Australia & New Zealand Banking Group Ltd in Hong Kong. "It is pretty clear that the authorities would still support growth. We still pencil in another RRR cut before the end of 2021, October the earliest."



High-frequency data tracked by Bloomberg's early indicators also show the recovery is leveling off. Several economists have already downgraded their growth forecasts for this year, although the expansion is still expected to exceed the government's modest target of above 6%.

China's equity benchmark, the CSI 300 Index, dropped as much as 1.5% to its lowest since Aug. 20.

The government imposed stringent measures, including travel curbs, mass testing and quarantines, for about a month to bring a new wave of Covid cases under control, the most widespread outbreak since the initial flareup in

2020. Confidence among smaller businesses in the month weakened and consumers cut back on spending. The partial closure of China's second-biggest container port also disrupted trade.

"Today's data again reflected the outsized and asymmetric shock on the service sector from Covid-related restrictions," said Liu Peiqian, China economist at Natwest Markets in Singapore. While there's room for a rebound in services PMI in coming months as the outbreak is now under control, any future Covid outbreak domestically will continue to weigh on the sector, she said.

Source: Bloomberg

Google delays mandatory office return to 2022 on Covid surge

Google pushed back the date when its employees must return to the office until after Jan. 10, citing uncertainty related to the pandemic amid a resurgence of Covid-19 cases in various countries around the world.

It will be optional for Google's staffers to work on campus until at least Jan. 10, Alphabet Inc. Chief Executive Officer Sundar Pichai wrote Tuesday in a memo to employees. The company will give workers 30 days notice before they're expected to go back to offices, but Pichai didn't specify a date when employees, based in the U.S. or elsewhere, must return.

"Beyond January 10, we will enable countries and locations to make determinations on when to end voluntary work-from-home based on local conditions, which vary greatly across our offices," Pichai wrote.

Google previously delayed a compulsory office return to Oct. 18. The internet giant has said it will ask employees to work in a "hybrid" model, with about 60% going back to the same offices as before the pandemic. In August, Google approved 85% of employee requests to work remotely or relocate once the company's offices fully reopen.

Google's decision to delay its return-to-office plan again is similar to the actions taken by other major technology companies. Facebook Inc. recently told U.S. employees they don't need to go back to offices until January, and Apple Inc. has also pushed back its plans.



Shree Ganeshaya Namah

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**The Indian Panorama brings you Weekly and Birthday
Horoscope by NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA**

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - 6th Sep to 12th Sep 2021

Aries

This week you will feel imbalanced and divided between your love life and work life. Your relationship will demand undivided attention and on the other hand, your work will be hectic. Your subordinates will let you work independently and you will find different approaches to meet your work demands. Your creative insight will gain you extra appreciation. You will feel confident and figure out a new way to earn money. You will bring good deals to your family business. The responsibilities of your current job will also increase and issues related to property will also be resolved.

Taurus

Negative thoughts will make you nervous but you are known to be someone who fights their fears. You will also feel urge to be detached from your responsibilities but gradually you will find your way back. Your soul mate will find a way to change your habits and turn you into the better version of yourself. Also, this is a lucky week for students. Wait and watch what plans God has for you!

Gemini

Your spouse and you will make some big decisions about your life together this week. Your health will not be a major concern this week but the elderly people in your home will demand some attention. You are also likely to overspend on health products. Rather than doing over expenditure on health, develop good eating habits and follow workout regime for everyone in your home.

Cancer

Your charismatic energy will impress new prospects today, which bring in huge profits for your business. You will be able to make some huge investments in this week. You're likely to rush the process and skip the analyzing and strategizing part, which can ruin all the profit you have made from the new prospect. You need to listen to your financial advisor and take your time. Managing such a huge amount of money can make you or break you. Your love life will be quite confusing throughout the week; your partner will act very caring and loving, but immediately be distant as soon as you mention your future together or taking the next step in your relationship.

Leo

You will come out from multiple messy situations. Your destiny will help you to get benefits in terms of gains in business. You are advised to initiate your postponed projects. Your losses will convert into profits, which will boost your financial health. New Partnership will be expected, which will help you to grow your business. You will get promotions in terms of rewards.

Virgo

Expect new opportunities coming your way in terms of business and work this week, which will boost your confidence to a new level. You will start a new venture with the help of your partner, which will increase your business in the near future. You will spend your quality moments with your partner. Your creativity will be high. You will likely bring some artifacts or household stuff which will increase your social status.

Libra

In the starting days of the week, you will be under the negative effects of the moon. You will feel unhappy; you will be dissatisfied with your current situation. You will internally feel a lack of confidence, which will stop you from doing something creative into your work or in the house. You are advised to keep patience and will not take any decision in hurry. You are advised to take care of your family and employees. You are advised to follow your intuitions before making any investment.

Scorpio

This week will go by easily if you take some precautions and stay cautious about not getting involved in any controversies arguments or fights. Avoid intense discussions and lethargy in important work. When it comes to managing your funds, it is mandatory that you do detailed financial paperwork this week so that you understand your shortcomings and plan your future accordingly. Your loved ones will need your extra time as your family might be emotionally suffering a little bit. You need to wear the pants in your family this week and take the lead everywhere is it taking on the financial burden or solving fights.

Sagittarius

A normal start to the week is likely for you. You will make use of the first two days of the week to improve your knowledge. You will crave for something new in your life. You will procure new items. Results will mirror the hard work that you have put in the past few days but all in all this week might be quite boring for you if you keep it like that. You will have a lot of free time at your hands and pretty much nothing to do as your business is flourishing by the work of outsources hence you will only need to dedicate a little amount of time and attention to your business.

Capricorn

Things will start going in a positive way for you this week. You will get the reward of your hard work you did. You will give your best at work and it will give you a very handsome number of rewards in form of appraisals or promotions. On the other hand, you will end up taking decisions in haste which you will regret later. Your partner will ask for some personal space and time to grow individually and you must give it.

Aquarius

You are likely to travel for business this week and Jupiter will bring you good deals from this travelling. Your communications skills will help in finding solutions to the issues your institution is facing. Along with that, you are likely to find a right guide who will help you stabilize your profits. On the negative side, you may harm some of the closest people in your life just by your harsh opinions so measure your words before you spill them.

Pisces

This week is fortunate for enhancing your business. On domestic fronts, there would be a little issue but this will also give you enough time to connect with your family. If you're in love you will take your relationship to another level and deal with the hardship of conveying your intentions to family. You will also be inclined towards charity and spirituality. Don't stress too much, time has a big basket of happiness for you this week.

BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : 6th Sep to 12th Sep 2021

CONTD FROM PAGE 30

Sept 6

You will have the best day today because your loved ones will make it super special for you. You might even get an amazing new work opportunity or deal that you have been wanting for a long time because your luck is extremely good today. Take care of your health and make sure you're not boastful today.

Sept 7

Today is a very hectic day for you. Even though today will be full of celebrations, you will be spread too thin into working as well as meeting everyone. The lack of personal and professional life balance will irritate you a little today which is the only negative of your day today. Today will be a good time to retrospect and think about the progress that you have made in the past years. Make sure you focus on the good memories of your life.

Sept 8

Today will be beneficial in numerous ways for you.

You just have to make sure that you are determined to tread ahead with discipline and don't forget to continue with your hard work and efforts. Today is the best time to make investments for investors and businessmen. Today is full of prosperity, power and manifesting your goals for you. You will have immense energy and enthusiasm today.

Sept 9

Do lots of dancing, physical activity and drink lots of water and increase your intake of fruits and vegetables. Also exercise and go for a long walk. Your love life will be the most beautiful part of your day today. Be prepared for a lot of positive surprises. You are extremely close to finding that person that will support you in everything. Be open to the affection being shown to you. Today is a great day for your relationship to flourish into the next big thing.

Sept 10

You will have a happy day, relaxing and taking care of your health. Focus on taking care of your health. Consulting a nutritionist will work very well in your favor today. You will find yourself in a somewhat

difficult position in your relationship today. If you try to come to an understanding with your partner things will get better.

Sept 11

You will get some profits or monetary benefits from your ancestral properties today which have been passed down to you. Your strategies should be planned to keep long-term interests in mind. Financial help from parents will help you with your pending dues today itself. You need to find a balance between your earnings and expenses. You will get good money today but you will still be cash deficient as you have made a lot of expenses in future.

Sept 12

You may have a lot of work and major decisions to take in your business today. You will execute quickly any work that comes your way today after taking a careful decision. You are blessed with special organizing capacity and with good tolerance, patience and steady nature by your sign today, which is your survival kit for today.

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Shankaranarayana: The combined form of Shiva and Vishnu

Lord Shankaranarayana is a combined deity form of Shiva (Shankara) on the right with Nandi, and Vishnu (Narayana) on the left with Garuda. Shankaranarayana is also called Harihara – Hari (Vishnu) and Hara (Shiva). Lord Shankaranarayana is thus worshipped by both Vaishnavites and Shaivites as a form of the Supreme God, as well as being a figure of worship for other Hindu traditions in general. Harihara is also sometimes used as a philosophical term to denote the unity of Vishnu and Shiva as different aspects of the same Supreme God.

Due to the diverse nature of Hinduism there are a wide variety of beliefs and traditions associated to both Vishnu and Shiva. In Vaishnavism Vishnu (including his associated incarnations) is the Supreme God, and in Shaivism Shiva (including his different incarnations) is the Supreme God. There was a period when the followers of Shiva and Vishnu were competing to establish their God as the sole Supreme God. The worship of Shankaranarayana evolved as a compromise between these two groups. Today these two Supreme Gods occupy equally important positions in the Hindu Trinity, with Brahma. Lord Shiva's incarnation as Ardhanarishvara – half Shiva and half Parvathy depicts that the male and female are manifestations of the same Supreme God. Similarly Lord Shankaranarayana shows that Vishnu and Shiva are manifestations of the same Supreme God. The Advaita Siddhantha regard the Supreme God as being ultimately formless and thus see both Vishnu and Shiva as different facets of the one formless Brahman.

According to Swami Sivananda, Shiva and Vishnu are one and the same entity. They are essentially one and the same. They are the names given to the different aspects of the all-pervading Supreme Soul or the Absolute.

“Shankaranarayana” is considered as one of the seven holy places created by Bhagwan Parshuram. This is one of the rare temples where we can see the sangam (confluence) of Shankara (Lord Shiva) and Narayana (Lord Vishnu).

Shankaranarayana village, named after the temple, is located in the valley of mountain ranges close to the Sahyadris. It is located in Udipi District, Karnataka, and 25KM from the Arabian Sea.

The 7 holy places namely Subrahmanya, Udipi, Kumbhakaashi, Koteswara, Shankaranarayana, Kolluru and Gokarna together constitute Parashurama Kshetra. These holy places are compared with seven holy places in Rama Kshetra, namely, Ayodhya, Mathura, Maya, Kashi, Kanchi, Avanthika and Puri.

Udbhaav Murthy – Shankaranarayana Temple

The main deity of Shankaranarayana Temple is in the form of Udbhaav Linga. The naturally formed lingam of Lord Shankara and Lord Narayana is one feet below the ground, inside the Garbhagudi. The devotees can only see the mirror image of the lingam. The Shankara Linga is on the right (left as seen by the devotees) and Narayana Linga on the left. While Shankara Linga is in round shape, whereas Narayana Linga is a flat one with foot prints of holy cow in it. Devotees believe that these were foot prints of Kamadhenu (holy cow) which had stood here for dripping milk on the Shankara Linga. There is water around Udbhaav Linga at any time of the year. This holy water is called Suddhamrita Theertha

Koti Theertha

Koti theertha is located in front of the temple. Devotees coming to this temple first make prokshana of



this theertha and then make darshan of Lord Shankaranarayana. The stone enclosure and the surrounding coconut and arecanut groves enhance the beauty of the pond. The pond has rich spiritual bearing. Rituals such as Pitratarpana and Theerthasana are held at this pond. Koti theertha stands out as most beautiful and vast of all the twenty one ponds found around this place.

Krodagiri Devaru

Shankaranarayana is also known as Kroda after Kroda Maharshi. In the 24th Chapter of Pushkara Kaanda in Padma Purana, one can find a beautiful description of Kroda Shankaranarayana. According to this, the demons Kharasura and Rattasura were ill-treating common people. Kroda Maharshi meditated Lord Shiva and Lord Vishnu together and prayed them come in the form of Lord Shankaranarayana. Lord Shiva and Lord Vishnu, pleased with the meditation of Kroda Maharshi, came to this place as Shankaranarayana and killed Kharasura and Rattasura. The hill beside the Shankaranarayana Temple, atop which Kroda Maharshi meditated Lord Shankaranarayana, is named as Kroda Giri.

The idol of Lord Shankaranarayana along with goddess Gowri and goddess Lakshmi are at the top of Kroda Giri.

Kroda Guhe

The Guhe (Cave) in which Kroda used meditate atop the Kroda Giri Parvatha (Hill). This is 6 foot wide cave with a 2-feet wide entrance.

“Shiva is a form of Vishnu and Vishnu a form of Shiva. Shiva dwells in the heart of Vishnu while Vishnu in the heart of Shiva.”

Krishna tells Arjuna that even those who are the devotees (bhaktas) of other devatas (Any devata) and who worship them with great devotion they too are

worshipping Him – even if it is considered to be avidhipoorvakam (i.e. following a different “Vidhi”, or Pooja rituals). Krishna is saying, “Pray to me directly. But, if the devotee finds attachment to other deities, that is OK. They too worship me.”

Vishnu Maya

Narada, coming under Vishnu Maya, gives shaapam to Vishnu, Narada says “Svami! Please forgive me. I, coming under influence of Your Maya, got Ahankaara and did your ninda. Please tell me what can save me from this ghora-paapam”.

Vishnu says: “O Priya Narada! You go and do paraayana of Shankara Shatanaamams. Then you will get Shanti. Shiva is whom I respect the most. Even by mistake don't forget this. One who doesn't have Shiva-Anugraha cannot be My Bhakta. Believe this. Then My Maya won't affect you.”

One day, when Goddess Lakshmi and Vishnu were together in vihaaram, Lakshmi sees Uchhaishravas, her brother, the horse of Revanta who is the son of Surya. Engrossed in seeing her brother, she does not reply to the repeated calls of Vishnu. Seeing her attraction, Vishnu gives her shaapam to go to Bhulokam in the form of a horse and come back to Vaikuntam only after getting a son equal to Himself! She comes to Bhuloka to experience the shaapam and realizing that none other than her brother, Shiva can help her calm Vishnu, she immediately does a tapas for Him and Shiva appears to save her soodari. Lakshmi says “You and Vishnu are both same, the Paramaatmaa. Please help me!” Shiva says “Soodari! How do you know that we both are same? All learned people know that. Who told you?” Lakshmi says, “Once MahaVishnu Himself told me this. Seeing Him in deep Daiva-dhyaanam, I asked

Him “During Samudra Manthanam, I thought you were the greatest of all and hence chose you. Devaadideva! Who is better than you that you are in dhyana of Him?” MahaVishnu replied “I am doing Shankara-dhyana. He is Eshwara. He is the same as me. All learned people know that. If someone is my devotee but still hates Shiva, he will fall into naraka”. Saying this, she asks Shiva to persuade Vishnu to bless her with a child. Shiva sends Chitrarupa as a duta to convince Vishnu. Vishnu immediately accepts and comes to Bhuloka and blesses Lakshmi with Ekaveera, who is equal to Vishnu Himself.

Source: Templepurohit.com

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“If India's own children don't cling to their faith, who shall guard it?”

“Indians alone can save India, and India and Hinduism are one.”

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River rafting in Kashmir

There are so many things to do in Kashmir but nothing more challenging than rafting in the white waters of the many rivers that cut through the Kashmir. The two most famous rivers where you can go for this extreme sport is River Indus and Zaskar river. River Lidder also has few stretches that are good enough to keep you enthralled. The rivers run through few of the most mesmerizing landscapes, giving you the opportunity to explore those wonders of nature, which are otherwise unreachable through land routes. Few stretches are long enough that they take days to complete. And in between, you will stay in camps setup under the snow-capped mountains and hilltop monasteries, just by the sides of these roaring rivers. Though there are rafting options in Kashmir region but they don't compare up to rafting in Ladakh region, especially in Zaskar. In other adventure sports, you get training sessions before you indulge in the real thing, but rafting is something where there can be no trial runs. All you get are few precaution tips and safety presentation. Here only the real thing prepares you for the real thrill.

White River Rafting destinations in Kashmir

The best place in Kashmir where you can indulge in River Rafting is in River Lidder near Pahalgam. The river hosts the two different stretches, which are quite suitable for river rafting. They are great for rafting but they cannot be called treacherous as the slopes are not that steep, and this attribute of the river is ideal location for the tourist. One can go for a daylong excursion to the river. You can also take up white water canoeing in rivers like Sindh and Drass and Suru and in the many high altitude lakes like Gangabal, Kaunsarnag and Vishensar. Its worth the time and money that you will spend on it.

White water Rafting destinations in Ladakh

This is the place where you will be face to face with and the roaring and thrashing beast, the Zaskar river. The Zaskar is graded as a class IV, extremely rough river. But the first look of the river will be deceiving and the thought that the said difficulty of the river seems exaggerated will definitely cross your mind. The rafting trip will be few days long and the first two days might not feel that adventurous. But hold on, the real test begins after two days of rapids. The next few days you will be hitting fast rapids in the deep gorges and reveal it yourself why this rated so high. Apart from Zaskar River, Indus River also is a great option for thrilling white water rafting. The best time for rafting in Kashmir is during summer time (May-September) when the rivers are full of water. In winters many rivers and lakes get frozen. Even in summers the water is freezing cold. Rafting is an extremely challenging sport so do not ignore the precautionary measures and warning signs that your tour guide tells you to look out for. Make sure that there are adequate rescue measures before you embark on this adventurous thrilling sport.



Pahalgam

The lush greenery and rocky terrain form an excellent spot for river rafting in Pahalgam. People love to participate in the annual competitions that challenge the rafting skills of participants. The river Lidder offers a great number of turns with challenging highs and lows, the participants are advised to be equipped with the proper gear.

The place has garnered a high rating on the international rafting rating system. With ratings going to levels 4-5, it is indeed considered to be a tough one. To sum it up, white water rafting in Kashmir is best experienced in Pahalgam. A lot of people from around the globe have tested their skills on the river Lidder. Their experiences speak volumes of the thrills that come equipped with a tour like this one.

Sonamarg

Speaking of tough rivers to conquer, the river Sindh offers similar challenges like Lidder. Its harsh terrain, coupled with rapid turns, creates an experience like no other. Sindh is considered to be a dangerous river for its fast flow and white water characteristics. The rocky surface also makes it really hard to point the raft in a particular direction. Sonamarg has a plethora of challenges that can amp up your experience of river rafting in Kashmir. Make sure you go prepared and carry all the essentials with you on the trip.

Kargil

Zaskar is the site in the valleys of Kashmir that houses river rafting in Kargil. It's said that this location offers an experience similar to the renowned river rafting of Colorado, USA. While gliding down during the activity, you're going to witness the true beauty of Kashmir depicted by an array of monasteries, snow-clad mountain peaks, and deep gorges. This can be opted by rafters of all expertise levels, given that safety protocols are followed ardently.

Tips For River Rafting In Kashmir

Safety should be a primary concern for rafting in Kashmir. Rafting is a physically demanding sport, and it's essential to be on the top of your health and take all necessary measures to safeguard yourself.

- Never remove the life jacket.
- Wear comfortable clothes and sports shoes.
- Always listen to your guide.
- Always keep your hands on the T-grip.
- Keep yourself hydrated.



Shuttlers Suhas, Tarun win; Kohli-Parmar lose at Tokyo Paralympics

Indian shuttlers Suhas Yathiraj and Tarun Dhillon made impressive starts to their campaign in men's singles SL4 class on the second day of the badminton competition at the Tokyo Paralympics here on Thursday, Sept 2.

The 38-year-old Suhas took just 19 minutes to see off Germany's Jan Niklas Pott 21-9 21-3 in a lopsided group A clash.

Tarun, 27, too didn't break a sweat, beating Thailand's Siripong Teamarrom 21-7 21-13 in a group B match that lasted 23 minutes.

While Suhas will face Indonesia's Hary Susanto next, Tarun will be up against Korea's Shin Kyung Hwan on Friday.

Suhas, who has an impairment in one of his ankles, has been at the forefront in the fight against COVID-19 menace as the district magistrate of Gautam Buddh Nagar in Uttar Pradesh.

Tarun, on the other hand, had sustained a severe knee injury while playing football at the age of eight, which resulted in restricted movement in the knee. He is the current world no.2 and a former two-time world champion.

The SL class allows persons with standing/lower limb impairment/severe are allowed to compete.

However, there was disappointment in store yet again for 19-year-old Palak Kohli and her partner Parul Parmar, 48, as the duo went down 7-21 5-21 to second seeded Chinese pair of Cheng Hefang and Ma Huihui in a group B women's doubles SL3-SU5 class match.

Bumrah strikes to remove England openers early after India's 191



England's Ollie Robinson celebrates after taking the wicket of India's KL Rahul. Reuters

LONDON, SEPTEMBER 2: Rory Burns and Haseeb Hammed couldn't stick around for long, with Jasprit Bumrah dismissing both England openers in the same over. India were all out for 191 with Chris Woakes taking four wickets and Ollie Robinson grabbing three.

Shardul Thakur produced a blazing half-century off just 31 balls and added a 50-plus partnership with Umesh Yadav for India's eighth wicket. Woakes picked up his third wicket as Pant became the seventh Indian wicket to fall. Ajinkya Rahane endured another low score, getting dismissed for 47 as India were

placed precariously at 122/6 at tea. England picked up the big wicket of Virat Kohli after the India captain scored a half-century off 85 balls - his 27th of Test career - and a second consecutive fifty of the series. India were 54/3 at the lunch interval, before England struck early in the second session, with Woakes picking up his second wicket and sending back Ravindra Jadeja.

India's openers did well to score 28 runs in the first seven over, but England pacers Woakes, Ollie Robinson and James Anderson combined to pick up three quick wickets.

The returning Woakes struck the first blow getting Rohit out caught behind. It was followed by Robinson trapping Rahul out LBW. Anderson then got Cheteshwar Pujara with a brilliant away swinger, which the batsman nicked to the keeper. England won the toss and opted to bowl first in the fourth Test match at The Oval. India made two changes to their side.

Yadav and Thakur come into the side in place of Ishant Sharma and Mohammed Shami, both of whom have a niggle. England have brought in Ollie Pope and Chris Woakes in place of Jos Buttler and Sam Curran.

Ronaldo breaks world record for scoring most goals in men's international football



PORTUGAL (TIP): Cristiano Ronaldo missed a penalty but still broke the men's international scoring record before adding a second goal as Portugal beat visiting Ireland 2-1 in World Cup qualifying.

Ronaldo grabbed his 110th goal in the 89th minute on Wednesday to move ahead of former Iran striker Ali Daei.

Six minutes into stoppage time, Ronaldo made it 111 in 180 games to break Irish hearts after defender John Egan gave his nation the lead in the 45th.

"I'm very happy, not only

because I beat the record but for the special moments that we had," Ronaldo said.

"Two goals at the end of the game is so tough, but I have to appreciate what the team did. We believed until the end." But Ronaldo, who has returned to join Manchester United, is still 76 goals behind the game's most prolific international scorer. Christine Sinclair, who is 38 years old, scored her 187th goal for Canada last month at the Tokyo Olympics.

Ronaldo's night had been frustrating up until the late

heroics.

His 15th-minute spot kick was well saved by goalkeeper Gavin Bazunu, who was just 2 years old when Ronaldo scored his first for Portugal as a skinny winger at the 2004 European Championship.

Ronaldo's only title with Portugal came at Euro 2016.

Although he was the top scorer at this year's European Championship with five goals in four games, his team's title defense ended in the round of 16.

So did France's bid.

Coach Didier Deschamps vowed his side would hit back strongly.

But Les Bleus had to settle for a comeback 1-1 draw at home against Bosnia and Herzegovina thanks to Antoine Griezmann's 39th international goal.

France had defender Jules Kounde sent off in the 50th for protesting to the referee after he was cautioned for fouling Sead Kolasinac.

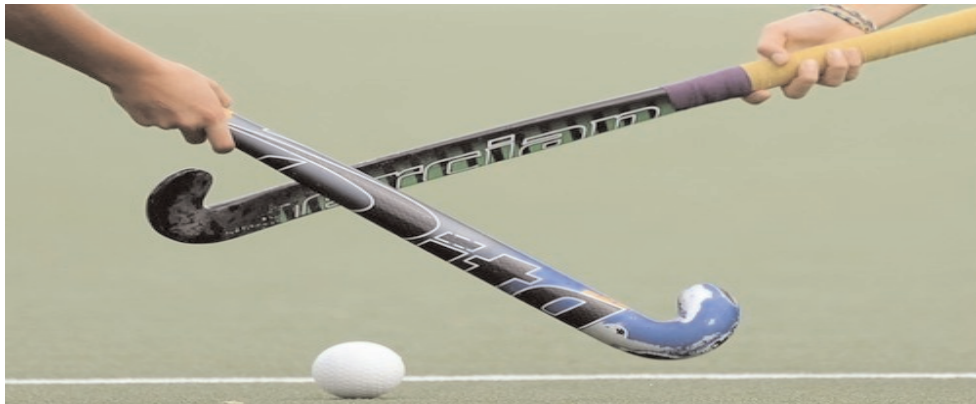
Another prolific striker was on target elsewhere, as Erling Haaland put Norway ahead in a 1-1 home draw with the Netherlands.

PRABHJOT'S COLUMN

Nostalgia - My early hockey days



PRABHJOT SINGH



When I played hockey for the first time, it was with a Khunda - a nicely chiseled out curved tree branch that resembled a plough. And the ball used in the game was made of a worn out piece of cloth held in shape by a large number of rubber bands cut from a discarded bicycle rubber tube.

For the first several months, it was my favorite stick as boys of my age group from my immediate neighborhood would assemble every evening for a game that would at times continue for more than an hour. Two broken pieces of bricks or even chappals (Slippers) would serve as goalposts at either end of the uneven playfield. The game was played barefoot. Gradually we all started mastering the skill of keeping the ball close to the stick while attempting to dribble past an opponent.

Hard hitting was normally avoided as the ball would peel off with broken rubber bands scattered all over. The makeshift indigenous playing equipment, however, served the purpose well with teams of three to four players each.

Since our "khundas" looked a little crude, we could not carry them to our school - Government Model Middle School (Jhullian Wala School) - for a game during the recess break.

Our most memorable day came when we were in sixth standard. A couple of boys in my neighborhood, who also went to the same school, were all smiles when our PT teacher asked us who all play hockey. And all the hands of boys in my Section went up in affirmation. To our great surprise we were asked to go to another room where there was a huge steel box. The school peon, Bhajan Singh, was already there.

After PT Madam arrived in the room, he opened the box and started taking out hockey sticks. Each one of us got a brand new stick. Thrilled and excited as we were, we immediately rushed to the school playfield for our first game with new hockey sticks and a leather ball. Since we were not used to holding the stick and playing with a regular ball, the first game turned out to be a mere hitting match. It was almost after a week of practice with the regular sticks and the leather ball, we all started playing well. Broken or damaged sticks were replaced on approval by the PT Madam.

Those who played football were issued

a couple of balls for regular practice. Interestingly, the football team also had most of the hockey players in it.

An Inter-Middle Schools tournament was our first tryst with competitive hockey. We won the first two matches but lost the third to a better organized and professionally trained team.

However, we had consolation as four members of our team were chosen for the Zonal team that was to play in Inter-Zonal for selecting a district team. Incidentally I was one of them. Other three included Gurdishpal Singh, who ultimately went on to represent India in international hockey, Sukhjit Singh and Manjit Singh.

Hockey continued with most of us to our next institution - High School.

The intervening break between the Middle and High School saw most of us joining an evening game of hockey at the neighboring Gujar Khan Khalsa High School. The school was later converted into an educational hub with a separate school for girls, a women's arts college, a business school, and an English medium school besides a few other specialized institutions.

The Gujar Khan Educational Centre is run by a Board of eminent people.

On the sprawling Gujar Khan playfields, most of the promising sportsmen and women of the area would come for training. In addition to school and college teams, outsiders including cricket, hockey, football, basketball players and athletes used the playfields for their training.

At times, the management would not take it lightly with outsiders using the playfields. The police would be called to chase away outsiders or players practicing there. It was an unending conflict as outsiders supported by their parents would maintain that the ground belonged to the society of which they all were members. Many students of the institutions run on the premises were also treated as outsiders in case they were not members of the regular teams of the Gujar Khan institutions.

This unsavory aspect apart, it was Gujar Khan playfields that gave a major exposure to young and budding players of the area.

Several senior hockey players, including alumni of the Gujar Khan institutions, would make it a point to attend the evening game. Among regular



The 1980 Olympic Gold winners

ones were Jagtar Singh and his brother, Raminder Singh (both sons of Mr. Mehar Singh, a leading criminal lawyer of his time. Both Jagtar Singh and Raminder Singh had the distinction of playing for India. Col Raminder Singh, son-in-law of Punjab CM Beant Singh had also led one of two Indian teams in an invitation tournament played at Ahmedabad. He also played for Signals and Services. Besides, he served Punjab as Director of Sports), Gurainye (Devinder Singh Benepal, he was also in India's camp for the 1975 World Cup but an alleged medical aberration saw him leave the camp), Golu (Ajit Singh, one of toughest hockey players of his time), Jawahari (Col Jawahar Lal), Jagdeep Singh Phoolka (He was a goalkeeper of the 1966 Asian Games gold medalist Indian hockey team), Bau Ji, Dhiri (Randhir Singh), Dhobi (Durlabh Singh), Teja (Tejinder Singh Sandhu), Billa and Kala (brothers who played for Gujar Khan School team), Bubby (Col Jatinderpal Singh Ahluwalia, who later captained SCD Government College hockey team), Sheela (Sushil Kumar Gupta), Hari (Harjit Singh Dua of Deson group), Chhindi (Charanjit Singh), Sarabha and Bhutewalia (both from Guru Nanak Engineering College hockey team), Kallu (Ajinderpal Singh, a promising center half with superb stickwork), Pinky (Gurdarshan Singh Mand now settled in Surrey) besides a few others. They all used to be regular for the evening game which was played over "shakanjavi".

Among other known faces to play there were Shiv Jagday (who later became national coach of both Canada and US hockey teams), Rajwinder Singh (played for India in World Cup), Dr Rajinder Pal Singh Bawa (now Vice Chancellor of Chandigarh University), and Jasjit Singh.

After the game, most of them would head for the Bengali Sweets Shop in the Model Town Market and laze around there.

Other than the regular evening game, this group, which was known outside as Model Town Lions Hockey Club, also used to invite teams from outside for

friendly games.

Corps of Signals (because of Col Raminder Singh) that had young MP Ganesh (who later captained India and also was the national chief coach), SN Pawar (member of the 1975 World Cup champion team), Maghar Singh and Gurdial Singh (deep defenders of Corps of Signals), was a regular. We as youngsters were lucky to watch MP Ganesh play barefoot on the dusty playfields of Gujar Khan and grow into an international star.

BSF Jammu was another team that came for friendly games...

We also used to wait for Sports School and Sports College teams from Jalandhar. Players like Hardyal Singh and his brother Hardev Singh besides Surjit Singh Rehal (they all later represented Kenya), Shiv Dutt aka Pandit Ji, Murthy and Kulwant Singh Mangu have all played at Gujar Khan school playfields.

It was on this ground that the Lions Club started organizing Major Bhupinder Singh Memorial All-India Hockey Tournament that featured almost all top teams of north India. Donations of two annas, four annas, and one or two rupees, were collected from willing hockey fans to run the tournament. There were also a few regular sponsors and friends of the Club who extended financial and moral support to the organizing committee. Prominent among them were Mr. DS Bhogal, Mr. Inder Mohan Singh Grewal of Upper India Steel, Mr. Apinder Grewal (who later became Mayor of Ludhiana), and Mr. Surjit Singh of Punjab Agricultural University (He used to do the commentary and compering).

After a few years, the venue of the tournament was shifted to Punjab Agricultural University grounds where well maintained lustful green playfields fascinated all players, officials and spectators.

--To be concluded

(Prabhjot Singh is a senior journalist and a well-known Sports commentator. He can be reached at prabhjot416@gmail.com)

CONTD FROM PAGE 1

Dozens killed overnight in NYC, NJ...

was found dead in the backseat of their car on the Grand Central Parkway in Queens.

"I don't have an exact answer regarding how many people are actually missing, but we are going to continue to work hard throughout the day and the evening to identify everyone's location," the chief said.

Cops were out in the hardest-hit areas Thursday evening knocking on doors to make sure the residents are safe, Harrison said.

Suburban Westchester County reported three fatalities, including Fran and Ken Bailie, longtime computer science professors at Iona College who never made it home after teaching there Wednesday, school officials said. A Mount Kisco man found dead in floodwaters in Elmsford was identified as Rabbi Shmuel David Weissmandl, the son of a famed Jewish religious leader.

At least 23 people died in the Garden State, including a family of three found in the same apartment complex, the state's Gov. Phil Murphy said late Thursday.

The rising death toll came as a state of emergency was in effect after the historic downpour knocked out power, closed roads and destroyed homes and businesses across the five boroughs.

As recovery efforts continued throughout the day, rescuers were still searching for more stranded and missing people, bracing for a potentially higher death toll.

"Our hearts go out to the victims," NYPD Commissioner Dermot Shea said at a press briefing in Queens Thursday with Mayor Bill de Blasio and Gov. Kathy Hochul.

"We pray that the number does not go up."

Among the dead was a family - 50-year-old Ang Gelu Lama, 48-year-old Mingma Sherpa and their son, two-year-old Lobsang Lama - who drowned inside their basement apartment in Flushing, Queens.

The other deaths in Queens included Yue Lian Chen, 86; Phamatee Ramskriet, 43, and her 22-year-old son Khrishah Ramskriet; 48-year-old Darlene Hsu; and three others - two males and a female - who haven't been identified, according to law enforcement sources and police. The body of 66-year-old Roberto Bravo was discovered in his flooded apartment in Cypress Hills, Brooklyn, cops said.

The 23 who died in New Jersey included a 70-year-old man swept away in his car in Passaic and 31-year-old Dhanush Reddy, who died when he was sucked into a 36-inch storm sewer pipe, officials said.

A Connecticut State Police trooper also died when his cruiser was swept away. Sgt. Brian Mohl had 26 years of service with the state police.

Elsewhere along the East Coast, a 19-year-old man was found dead in a flooded apartment complex in Rockville, Maryland, and at least five people were killed in Pennsylvania, including one killed by a fallen tree and another who drowned in his car after helping his wife to escape.

The storm also wreaked havoc on the region's utility and transit systems.

More than 200,000 electricity customers were still without power early Thursday across the northeast - mostly in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York, according to PowerOutage.US.

New York's FDR Drive and the Bronx River Parkway were flooded from the overnight torrential downpour, submerging cars up to their windows and forcing drivers to leave their vehicles behind.

Subway tracks and stations were also submerged, prompting the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to suspend all service, which largely resumed with lingering delays by late afternoon.

In New Jersey, the NJ Transit suspended rail services, except the Atlantic City Rail Line, and the Newark Light Rail was also halted. Newark International Airport shutdown overnight but restarted limited flights Thursday morning.

New York Gov. Kathy Hochul, New Jersey Gov. Phil

Murphy and Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont all issued emergency declarations for their states as they reeled from the destruction and President Biden said he'd spoken to the governors, telling them Federal Emergency Management Agency personnel were on the ground to provide assistance.

At a press conference in Queens, Hochul, New York's newly sworn in chief executive, pledged to ensure the havoc and loss of life caused by flooding doesn't occur in the future.

"What happened yesterday -- trains were shut down, people were stranded. The fear that they must have experienced I cannot imagine," she said. "I don't want this to happen again."

The National Weather Service recorded 3.15 inches of rain fell in Central Park in an hour, from 8:51 to 9:51 pm - believed to be the most ever. At least 7.19 inches of rain fell there in total, the NWS said. Tropical Storm Henri dumped 1.94 inches in Central Park last month.

No rush for US to recognize Taliban...

community," White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki told reporters at her daily news conference on Wednesday.

At a separate news conference, the State Department echoed the same view. "We will continue to have conversations that serve our interests, as well as our allies and partners," Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Victoria J Nuland told reporters.

"But the first thing we want is to see them live up to the obligations that they have under the UN Charter, as well as the public statements that they themselves have made about their expectation for an Afghanistan that respects human rights, respects international law, allows international citizens and Afghans who wish to leave," she said in response to a question.

The US obviously had contacts with the Taliban during the withdrawal, she said.

"We had it during the effort that we were trying to midwife a negotiation. Those conversations have continued intensively to enable the evacuation of - that we undertook, and to try to get the kinds of guarantees of safe passage, etc., and tolerance, and to talk about the standard set in the UN Security Council resolution to talk about the terrorist threat as well because the expectation is that they claim to be able to control the security of Afghanistan," Nuland said.

The United States, she said, stands by the latest UN Security Council resolution. "Those are the international community's expectations and the UNSC's expectations for a Taliban-led government, and the way it will govern, and the way it will interact with the international system," she said. (Source: PTI)

India's External Affairs minister...

during which the two leaders exchanged views on Afghanistan and the Indo-Pacific.

"Excellent meeting with Foreign Minister of Slovenia @AnzeLog. Agreed to deepen our political and economic relationship. Welcome Slovenia's Presidency of EU and confident it will take India-EU ties forward. Good exchange of views on Afghanistan and the Indo-Pacific," he tweeted. The situation in Afghanistan is likely to figure prominently in Jaishankar's meetings with his EU counterparts. (Source: PTI)

Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan...

Affairs Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said in a tweet. The U.S. readout of the meeting between the two diplomats included, as discussion topics, "continued coordination on Afghanistan" and "strengthening Indo-Pacific cooperation through the Quad."

Mr. Shringla also met with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, with whom he discussed bilateral ties and Afghanistan, Mr. Bagchi wrote.

Mr. Shringla's delegation included Joint Secretary (Americas) of the Ministry of External Affairs Wani Rao and Joint Secretary (International Cooperation) from the Ministry of Defense Somnath Ghosh, both of whom led the Indian side at the India-U.S. 2+2 inter-session on Wednesday. The U.S. side was led by

Assistant Secretary of Defense for Indo Pacific Affairs Ely Ratner and Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Ervin Massinga.

Bilateral agenda

"Both sides took stock of the progress and developments in the bilateral agenda under the India-US strategic partnership, including defense, global public health, economic and commercial cooperation, science and technology, clean energy and climate finance, and people to people ties," an MEA statement said.

The inter-session included a discussion on strengthening multilateral cooperation among the U.S., India and "other like-minded partners", according to a statement from the Pentagon.

"The U.S. and Indian officials exchanged views on a range of regional issues of shared interest, including in South Asia, East and Southeast Asia, and the Western Indian Ocean and identified opportunities for enhanced cooperation on maritime security, regional connectivity, counterterrorism and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief," the statement said.

The two sides had committed to "driving greater interoperability" between their militaries and operationalizing bilateral initiatives on "information-sharing, logistics, defense industrial cooperation and joint doctrine engagement through liaison exchanges," the Pentagon said. Prior to his Thursday engagements at the State Department, Mr. Shringla had dinner with U.S. officials including Ms. Sherman at India House, the official residence of India's Ambassador to the U.S., Taranjit Singh Sandhu, as per a tweet from Mr. Sandhu.

Others present at the dinner included Laura Rosenberger, Senior Director for China on the Biden National Security Council; Chief of Staff to Presidential Climate Envoy John Kerry; Uzra Zeya who is Under Secretary for Civilian Security, Democracy and Human Rights; Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security Bonnie Jenkins and Under Secretary for Economic Growth, Energy and Environment Jose Fernandes.

Possibility of Modi's visit

Wednesday's inter-session precedes the annual 2+2 ministerial dialogue, slated to be held in Washington later this year. Also on the cards is the possibility of Mr. Modi visiting Washington for bilateral discussions with U.S. President Joe Biden and a summit level meeting of the Quad, following his address to the United Nations General Assembly on September 25.

The in-person visit of Mr. Modi depends heavily on the ability of Japanese Premier Yoshihide Suga to do so. His attendance is not a given, with Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) scheduled to hold its leadership election on September 29. (Agencies)

Section of media gives communal...

aired communal content linking the spread of the coronavirus to a Tablighi Jamaat meet held at Nizamuddin in Delhi.

"The problem is, everything in this country is shown with a communal angle by a section of media. ... The country is going to get a bad name ultimately," Chief Justice Ramana, heading a three-judge Bench, observed orally. The hearing witnessed Chief Justice Ramana upbraid the lack of accountability on the part of social media platforms.

The CJI said social media platforms only responded to "powerful people," while complaints made by ordinary people, institutions and judges over content were ignored. "These web channels, Twitter, Facebook, YouTube... They never respond. There is no accountability. About the institution they write badly and then they do not respond... This is the condition of institutions, forget individuals... They consider only people who are powerful. Institutions, common man, judges, they do not... This is the reality," Chief Justice Ramana noted.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanoram.news)

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